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Canada. Relations of Labor and Capital in Canada  
Royal Commission on the

# REPORT

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OF THE

## ROYAL COMMISSION

ON THE

## RELATIONS OF (Labor CAPITAL) AND (Capital LABOR)

IN CANADA.

[ Vol. 3 ]

EVIDENCE—NOVA SCOTIA



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1889.







# EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE THE

## ROYAL COMMISSION

ON THE SUBJECT OF

### LABOR IN ITS RELATION TO CAPITAL IN CANADA.

HALIFAX, 3rd April, 1888.

W. J. CLAYTON (of Clayton & Son, clothiers) sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. You are a representative of the firm of Clayton & Sons? A. Yes.

Q. You have full authority to speak for them? A. Yes.

Q. You are manufacturers of men's and boys' clothing? A. Yes.

Q. How many hands of all kinds do you employ, on an average? A. Do you mean hands in the building?

Q. Yes? A. About 100.

Q. How many do you think you have outside? A. We have about 300 names on our books, but these hands are not working for us all the time. They work for other firms as well, most of them.

Q. How long do they work? A. In the shop 9 hours. The clerks, of course, work longer.

Q. We will speak of them again, but first of those engaged in the manufacture of clothing. How many of those are females—those hands that work in your own place, particularly? A. I suppose the females number 8 or 10 to one male.

Q. Have you any small boys or girls employed? A. Yes; we have girls 15 years of age, that is they tell us they are 15, and boys from 15 years of age.

Q. You have none younger than that? A. We make it a rule never to take a girl less than 15 years of age. Some of them look pretty young.

Q. What wages do your men earn in the week. You pay them by the week? A. Yes.

Q. On an average what do they earn? A. \$5 to \$12—that is journeymen.

Q. Have you foremen, or do you work yourselves? A. We have people who superintend the departments.

Q. Are these paid extra? A. Yes; they get a little more than others.

Q. What is the ordinary rate of wages—as you say, from \$8 to \$12? A. Yes, the average wage of a tailor is about \$9 a week.

Q. Would you please state to us what is the average wage of the women? I don't know that I could. Where they work by the week we pay \$1.50 to \$2 a week, but the most of our hands work on piece work.

Q. What do they receive to begin with? A. We commence paying them \$1, and they work up to \$4.50. Unless they are very good hands they don't exceed that.



Q. Well, what pay do you give the little girls and boys? Are these connected with the clothing establishment? A. Yes.

Q. What wages do you pay these? A. When we take a boy on we usually commence with \$1.50 a week. If he is a small boy we commence with \$1 or \$1.50.

Q. If they remain with you you advance their wages? A. Yes.

Q. What advance do you make? A. A boy learning his trade gets an advance every year of a dollar a week.

Q. Do these boys remain with you? A. No; as a rule they leave and shift to something else. Our trade is rather unpopular with boys.

Q. What do you pay to little girls when they come to you? A. We pay them piece work. We put them under a superintendent and as soon as they can do what work they are at they get pay.

Q. How long would they be under instructions? A. Two or three weeks; if they cannot sew it may be two, or probably three, months before they get anything.

Q. Do you find your hands, as a rule, steady men to work or otherwise? A. Well, if they stay with us they are steady; if not, we get rid of them as soon as we can.

Q. Could you tell us of any of your men having any means by them—have any of them houses of their own? A. I don't know of any; I think not.

Q. Have you had any labor trouble with your people? A. No; none at all.

Q. These people having work outside—how are they paid? A. Altogether by piece work.

Q. You have a regular standard, I suppose, for a certain class of goods? A. Yes.

Q. I am going to ask you a question now that you need not answer if you have any objection to doing so. Has your business increased or otherwise? A. Yes; we something more every year.

Q. Do you supply any place outside the city? A. Oh, yes.

Q. Where do you find a market for the rest of your goods? A. We send goods all over the Maritime Provinces; to New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland.

Q. Anywhere else? A. When we get overloaded we go to Ontario, but there is no profit in that. Twice we have had to unload there. If we manufacture more goods than we can get rid of in the regular way, we send some one to take a trip to Toronto.

Q. Do you ever go past Toronto? A. Yes; we have been as far west as London, but we do not look at that as regular trade.

Q. You don't find that trade profitable? A. No.

Q. You are more confined to your own place? A. We have never worked it regularly.

Q. And your business is steadily increasing? A. Yes; we get out more every year.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Who of your employes receive \$12 a week? A. We have one journeyman tailor at that price. The hands at \$9 to \$12 would be on custom work, and in the season, if it is a brisk season. That is not in the wholesale department. In a good season we would have three or four hands getting \$10 or \$12.

Q. You say you have ten women to one man? A. That is about the average.

Q. How many men have you? A. I think eight or ten.

Q. That is, you have eighty or a hundred women? A. Yes.

Q. What would be the average between the prices? From \$5 to \$12 a week you pay the men? A. Yes; \$7 or \$8.

Q. Do they work overtime? A. Very seldom.

Q. When they do, are they allowed for it? A. Yes. We pay at the same rate. Sometimes we work one and a-quarter time, but that is only occasionally.

Q. How much would women on piece work earn? A. They would average between \$3 and \$4 a week.



Q. Would that be working inside or outside? A. Inside. I think all the questions Mr. Walsh asked referred to inside work.

Q. How many have you outside? A. About 300 women are on the book, but they do not all of them work for us altogether. Some work for other firms as well, and those who do work for us do not give all their time.

Q. Do you pay them directly or is it done by sub-contract? A. We pay them directly. I think some of them employ others. Sometimes there are several in one family.

Q. Do you pay all the hands who work on your work outside? A. I don't understand.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. If any person outside has work from you and employs others, do you pay them? A. No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Have you sub-contractors outside? A. I believe some of our people employ others, but we send the work only to one man or woman, and don't know anything about that. We only pay those whose names are on our books.

Q. Do your men and women work in the same room? A. Yes.

Q. Is it a comfortable room in winter? A. It is heated by the usual furnace for heating irons, and also by a hot air furnace in winter.

Q. Are the furnaces in the room where they work? A. Yes.

Q. Are they there in summer? A. Yes.

Q. Do the workpeople complain of the heat? A. Yes; but in summer we have a partition up around the furnaces.

Q. How high? Does the partition go to the ceiling? A. No.

Q. Are there separate conveniences for men and women? A. Yes.

Q. Are there separate entrances? A. Yes; they are entirely distinct.

Q. On piece work, what would a woman receive for making a tweed vest? That is, inside? A. From 15 to 30 cents for ready-made work.

Q. How many would she make in a day? A. About three a day. That is what they usually do.

Q. Do the prices for piece work vary? Is there a difference between work done inside and outside? A. Yes; we pay more for work outside. Inside we pay only for sewing. Those who work outside have to do their own machine work and pressing, so that they have really more to do.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. How much do you pay for coats? A. From 40 cents to \$1. For overcoats we pay \$1.50.

Q. Do you make shirts? A. Yes.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q. How much do you pay for flannel shirts? A. \$1.20 a dozen. We pay 90 cents a dozen for cotton.

Q. Is that inside or out? A. Inside.

Q. What do you pay for vests outside? A. 16 to 18 cents is the lowest and 35 cents is the highest.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Give an idea of the average earnings of women in Halifax engaged in making ready-made clothing. A. I think about \$4 a week. That would be about a fair average.

Q. How many hours a day would they work? A. Ten hours.

Q. Not more? A. I think not.

Q. Do you supply thread and all materials? A. Yes; we supply thread.

A—1½\*\*



Q. Outside work at the prices mentioned does not include button-holes? A. No; they are made inside at our own charge by machine, except low-priced pants, and in fact all pants made outside.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Have they constant employment? A. I think they have. There are four or five concerns engaged in manufacturing clothing, and if they leave their names with several concerns they will have work right along.

Q. For those whose names are on your books there is constant employment? A. Yes, except at intervals.

Q. Do you know what people pay for house rent in Halifax? A. No. I know what I pay myself.

Q. Do you pay your hands cash? A. Yes.

Q. Do you pay once a week? A. We pay the outside people when they bring their work in.

Q. If there is any work that does not pass examination what becomes of it? A. It has to go back. We do not receive it until it passes the examination.

Q. In every case? A. Yes.

Q. Do your people sign engagements? A. We give them lists of instructions.

Q. Are there fines or penalties for breaches of discipline, or work spoilt? A. No; except that we do not receive the work until it is right, and if they cannot make it right we take off what we can get it done for in the building.

Q. Can you give us a copy of your printed rules? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is the door closed at a certain time? A. Yes; it is closed three minutes after the time for going to work.

Q. What time is that? A. Three minutes after 8 o'clock.

Q. Do they come back if they are late? A. No; they lose half a day.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. How high is your building? A. Four stories on one street and three on another.

Q. How high up do the employés work? A. They work at the top of the building. They have to go up two flights of stairs.

Q. How do the doors open; in or out? A. Out.

Q. Are there any fire escapes? A. No; but the stairs are not connected with the rest of the building.

Q. How wide are the stairs? A. Three feet.

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RUFUS BYERS (of McDonald & Co., brass founders) sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Will you please state what industry you are engaged in? A. Brass founding is the chief branch; also machine work, steamfitting, coppersmithing and plumbing.

Q. You represent the firm of McDonald & Co.? A. Yes.

Q. How many men have you in your employ; you need not state the exact number, but about the average? A. From sixty-five to ninety-five.

Q. Have you any small boys employed in your business? A. About fifteen years is the youngest.

Q. How many of those have you? A. Probably three or four.

Q. Now, I suppose perhaps it may be better in your own way to divide the men according to their different branches, and tell us, if you please, the average wages they each receive? A. The wages average for skilled men about \$10 per week, the less skilled men would be young men receiving about \$8 per week; the highest wages would be \$12.



Q. Do they work sometimes in all branches of the profession, and do you rate the wages in all branches of the profession—steamfitting, &c., the same? A. Yes; the wages average the same all through.

Q. I believe you have blacksmiths, and tinsmiths, and sheet iron workers; do they average the same wages? A. Yes; the wages are about the same.

Q. The hours are about the same? A. Yes.

Q. You have also men to do roofing? A. Yes; we have three or four roofing men.

Q. What are their hours? A. Their hours vary somewhat. They work outside, and according to the daylight and according to the weather.

Q. If they work extra, are they paid extra? A. Yes; they are paid fifty per cent. more up to 12 o'clock at night and double time over that and for Sundays.

Q. You find it necessary sometimes to work at night? A. Yes; especially for break downs and machine work.

Q. You consider that work necessary to be attended to at once? A. Yes.

Q. That is when they are paid extra wages? A. Yes; frequently they have to work on steamers that come in for repairs.

Q. What wages do you pay small boys? A. When they first come, from a dollar to a dollar and a-half a week.

Q. Do you take any boys as apprentices? A. No; none of them are indentured.

Q. Do you find them stay with you until they became skilled workmen? Q. From 40 to 50 per cent. of them stay, the remainder of them go away to the United States.

Q. Do any boys stay with you after they are out of their time? A. That is what I mean; from 40 to 50 per cent. of them remain.

Q. Do you find your men, as a rule, to be good, intelligent, industrious, sober men? A. Yes. There are a few rather too fond of strong drink.

Q. Are there many of that kind? A. No; the majority of them are good, steady men.

Q. Do you know of any of your men having money by them, or keeping a bank account, or have any of them houses of their own? A. Some few of them have houses of their own. I do not know much about their private affairs but three or four of them have houses of their own, and are saving money, while with others their wages do not last them until the end of the week.

Q. That would be their own fault, I presume? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever had any labor troubles with your men? A. No; nothing worth mentioning, sometimes a man has given trouble on his own account, but there has never been any combined action.

Q. Have you any laboring men in connection with your business? A. Yes.

Q. How many have you? A. Probably a dozen.

Q. What wages do you pay them generally? A. A dollar a day, except in the case of a good man who has been some time with us; we give him a dollar and a quarter.

Q. You do castings, of course? A. We do no iron castings, only brass, except that occasionally we make a small iron casting in order to hurry a job out.

Q. Is your shop as a rule well ventilated and comfortable for the men to work in? A. Yes; it compares favorably with shops of its class.

Q. Do your men, as a rule, remain a long time with you? A. Yes.

Q. You don't change hands often? A. No.

Q. How long have you had some of your hands with you? A. About fifteen or sixteen years.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Where do you sell your brass castings? In the provinces chiefly? A. We sell some in Newfoundland and some in the French island of St. Pierre and occasionally we have an order from Bermuda.

Q. Do you sell any in the west? A. No.



Q. For your brass work do you use copper ingots or old copper? A. We use very little ingot copper, we get a great deal of stuff from wrecked vessels and we use copper bolts largely. That is equal in quality to ingots and we get it cheaper by the amount of the freight to Great Britain.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you look upon plumbing and steamfitting as distinct branches of your business? A. Yes.

Q. What weekly wages do you pay your plumbers and steamfitters? A. \$10 a week, perhaps a little higher. If there is any variation the steamfitters and plumbers would get a little higher than the others.

Q. What wages would a brass moulder receive? A. We have only two; one gets twelve dollars and the other eight.

Q. Have you any night work in the moulding shop? A. Very seldom.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Did you give us the wages of your machine hands? A. About \$10 on an average.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are they paid weekly? A. No; fortnightly.

Q. Do they prefer that? A. I think not; I think they would prefer weekly payments, that is some of them, but the bulk of them would be indifferent.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q. Do you make your own patterns? A. Not wholly; we have a pattern maker constantly employed, but he does not keep us going; we get patterns made outside.

Q. Outside the city? A. No; outside the shop.

Q. Are you short of pattern makers? A. No; we have no room to employ them.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What would be the wages of a pattern maker? A. About \$12. A good one would get \$15.

Q. Would they get constant employment? A. Yes; a good man would, but only a limited number would be required.

Q. You mean by a good man one who could take his own work off? A. Yes; a man who could make a working drawing according to scale and work to it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. When apprentices get out of their time do they remain with you as journey-men? A. They usually remain awhile, but we scarcely know when they are out of their time, they do not serve a regular apprenticeship and we pay them according to what they are worth without regard to when they become of age.

Q. Where do men go to after they leave this province? A. To the United States chiefly; that is, the North Eastern States.

By Mr. MACLEAN:—

Q. Is the indenture system a success with you? A. We have never tried it.

W. H. GIBSON (of Doull & Miller, manufacturers of clothing), sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. You represent the firm of Doull & Miller here in connection with the clothing department? A. Yes.



Q. How many men do you employ, that is how many hands altogether do you employ in the manufacture of clothing? A. Well, it varies at different seasons of the year.

Q. Give us the average? A. There are just a hundred hands working now, but that is hardly a fair average; about a hundred and twenty-five would be a fair average.

Q. How many of those have you employed in the building? A. We have at present fifty-five.

Q. The balance would be outside? A. Yes.

Q. How many of those are men, I mean journeymen tailors? A. Eleven.

Q. What is the average wages of these journeymen tailors? A. About nine dollars.

Q. How many of your hands are women? A. There are forty-five employed inside.

Q. How many small children have you employed inside? A. None.

Q. Those inside—are they paid by the day or by the piece? A. By the piece, except a few who are paid by the week. There are three or four paid by the week.

Q. Have the kindness to tell us the wages per week earned by those women? A. They average three dollars a week all around.

Q. Then all the other hands are outside on piece work? A. Yes.

Q. Could you tell us about the average earnings of those people outside? A. I have taken them all together. They average three dollars a week inside and out.

Q. Are you aware whether the people outside employ any help? A. I think nothing outside their own families. They may have a little assistance from some members of their own family.

Q. Are you responsible for the wages of any others than those you deliver parcels to? A. No.

Q. Only to those and no others? A. No.

Q. Would it be a fair question to ask you whether you find your trade improving or otherwise? A. Well, it varies from year to year. On the whole it is improving, that is we have done more business. When we commenced 13 or 14 years ago it was a very trifling affair, not amounting to more than from \$12,000 to \$15,000 a year. Now it is very much larger.

Q. At that time had you any competition? A. No.

Q. You have competition now? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever had any labor troubles among your people? A. No. The only troubles we have are pic-nics.

Q. As a general rule are your hands pretty industrious? A. Yes; we have no labor troubles.

Q. Your men for the most part are sober and industrious? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Has there been any increase in the wages of your people in the last seven or eight years? A. No.

Q. Has there been any decrease? A. No; the wages are about the same.

Q. Do you furnish your hands with constant employment all the year around at the rates named? A. Yes.

Q. Have you separate conveniences for male and female help? A. Yes.

Q. How are they separated? A. They are practically one, with a division between the two.

Q. They are side by side? A. Yes.

Q. Is there any screen to prevent the men from seeing the females go in? A. No.

Q. They can see one another go in? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Have you any system of fining your employés? A. No.

Q. When goods come in from outside are they examined? A. Yes.

Q. Suppose they don't pass the examination what happens? A. The people have to make them right.

Q. Are they sent back? A. No; they are kept until they come for them. When they come the error is explained and they are asked to rectify it.

Q. Are they charged for any damage done? A. Yes; where any actual damage takes place; if the goods are botched in the making they have to pay for them.

Q. Is the charge enforced? A. Yes.

Q. It depends on the inspector whether he sends the garment back, or charges? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What is the average amount paid for vests? A. Well, each house has its own charges. It would depend on the style of the garment and whether it has a collar or not and on the style of the collar.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do you make shirts? A. Yes.

Q. Flannel shirts? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any objection to stating how much you pay per dozen for the making? A. From a dollar a dozen to two dollars, according to the quality.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Have you fire escapes connected with the work rooms? A. We have doors leading to the adjoining warehouses and ladders to the roofs, put in, of course, under the supervision of the board of fire wards.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do you make overalls? A. Yes.

Q. How much a dozen do you pay? A. It is according to how they are made.

Q. How much do you pay for making common overalls? A. There are some so common they could hardly be called overalls at all; we pay from sixty cents a dozen up.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. When charges are made for bad work what is done with the garment? A. The operative can take it at the actual cost.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. What ready-made clothing comes into competition with you? A. That from the upper Provinces, that is, Montreal, and some local houses.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are your hands paid weekly or fortnightly? A. Fortnightly.

Q. Do they prefer that? A. We do it for our own convenience.

Q. Do they ask to be paid more frequently? A. No.

Q. Don't you think it would be a convenience to them? A. No; not to the class of people we employ.

Q. Are they wealthy people? A. No; but they are an industrious class; their money is perhaps more useful to them every two weeks.

Q. Can a person pay rent and support a family on five or six dollars a week? A. No; they don't have families.

Q. You say the average wages is three dollars a week? A. Yes.

Q. How much would the people who receive that amount pay for board? A. The girls mostly live at home and it does not cost them anything.

Q. Do you ascertain whether the girls you employ live with their parents? A. No.

Q. I suppose it is a matter of indifference to you? A. We don't care where they live



Q. You don't know how much they pay for board? A. I suppose they would pay from two dollars to two and a half.

Q. Have you any in your employ that earn less than three dollars? A. Yes; that sum is the average.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q. Is your raw material bought here or outside? A. It is half Canadian and half English.

Q. Is it woollen or cotton goods that you import most? A. The common grades of woollen.

THOMAS SCOTLAND (of Thomas & Co., furriers, &c.) sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have the kindness to state what business you are engaged in? A. I am connected with the firm of Thomas & Co., hatters and furriers.

Q. How many hands do you employ? A. About four.

Q. Have you any hands outside in the fur trade? A. Yes; we employ two girls during the winter season.

Q. Of course in your own family the question of wages is not anything, but what wages do you pay the people you employ outside? A. We pay girls \$3 a week.

Q. You have only the two? A. That is all.

Q. What hours are they supposed to work? A. From eight until six.

Q. You have no small girls or boys or laboring men employed? A. Only a servant man who gets \$2 a week and his board.

Q. Is there any information concerning your business that you can give us? A. I don't know of anything unless questions are directed to particular matters.

Q. Do you suppose that your business is increasing? A. No, quite the contrary.

Q. To what do you attribute that? A. Partly to competition and partly to the way in which the trade is scattered.

Q. There are too many in the trade? A. Yes; and besides they are not in legitimate trade, the hat and fur business is monopolized by other individuals outside the trade; that is due to travellers who come here and instead of attending to parties in the trade they go to others outside.

Q. Most people in the clothing trade sell hats? A. Yes.

Q. And people who are not in either sell both clothes and hats? A. Yes.

Q. What wages would you give a first-class woman furrier? A. Not over \$4 a week.

Q. Is that the prevailing price in Halifax? A. Yes.

Q. Would she be able to earn that all the year around or for the season only? A. Just for the season. We don't manufacture to any great extent.

Q. How long would the season last? A. From the first of November to the end of last month; about four or five months.

Q. Have you a hatter here that can manufacture a silk hat out of the raw material? A. No; we only manufacture caps and furs.

Q. Is there anyone of that kind in Halifax? A. I think there is one person who does over silk hats, but not to any extent.

Q. You would call him an ironer? A. Yes, a resurrectionist.

Q. What would be the wages of a cap maker? A. We have no specific price. When a girl comes to work she is expected to turn her hand to everything.

Q. You take on learners? A. Yes.

Q. What do you pay them? A. Probably a dollar and a half a week.

Q. How long would it take a girl to learn the fur trade? A. If she is apt—one season. The next season she would be able to work without much instruction.

Q. Is there a large demand for that business in Halifax? A. No; it has not been large during the last three or four seasons. The weather has been so mild that persons have been wearing hats when they should have been wearing caps.

THOMAS J. POWER (of Power & Co., plumbers, &c.) sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Will you tell the members of the Commission what industry you are engaged in? A. A variety of metal works, machinists' and engineers' work, copper working, plumbing, sheet iron working and almost any thing in metals, both manufacturing and importing.

Q. Do you do tin work? A. Not much of that.

Q. Do you make castings? A. No; we fit them.

Q. Do you do steam fitting? A. Yes.

Q. And roofing? A. Yes; we do roofing, too. We do quite a variety of business. We do American roofing and copper and zinc roofing also, but not much of that is done.

Q. Will you have the kindness to tell us about the average number of men you employ? A. You know I am only 15 or 16 months in business; we employ about a dozen hands; ten or a dozen; I could not say that they are all men.

Q. You say you are only in business a short time? A. Yes.

Q. Perhaps you will say what business you were in before? A. I started with Macdonald & Co. 25 years ago.

Q. We have already heard a representative of their business? A. Mine is a similar business.

Q. Then, instead of only a few months, you have been in that business 25 years? A. Yes; but not on my own account.

Q. Would you kindly tell us about what wages you pay your men? A. Different amounts, from \$6 to \$10 a week.

Q. Do you employ laboring men? A. Yes; we employ a number during the year, but we don't keep them steadily employed.

Q. What wages do you pay those you employ? A. \$1.50 a day.

Q. What hours do you generally work? A. Nine hours in the winter and ten in summer, except we are busy, when we work all night and right along.

Q. When you work after hours what wages do you pay? A. A day and a half; sometimes, after twelve o'clock, we have to pay double, but not often.

Q. Have you ever had labor troubles with your men? A. No; nothing.

Q. With regard to the roofing business, that is, I mean, the asphalt roofing, do your men work after hours? A. Very little, except they want to finish a job.

Q. Then they are allowed for their time after six o'clock. A. Yes.

Q. Are your men fairly intelligent, industrious and sober? A. Well, we try to get the best in that line we can, for our own good as well as others; they are, I think, not too bad.

Q. I might ask, not only with regard to your present business, but your past experience in connection with asphalt, zinc and metal roofing, whether the trade is increasing or not? A. As far as American roofing is concerned, it certainly has largely increased since I have been in business.

Q. Is there much metal, zinc or copper roofing done? A. There is not much copper roofing done. I have only put on a few.

Q. There is a good deal of zinc used about buildings? A. Yes.

Q. You do all that business, such as spouting, cornicing, &c.? A. Yes.

HALIFAX, 4th April, 1888.

JOHN TURNBULL, Superintendent Nova Scotia Sugar Refinery, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. I believe you are superintendent of the Nova Scotia Sugar Manufacturing Company? A. I am.

Q. Would you please give the Commission some idea of the number of men you employ there, taken as a whole? A. We employ about 80 men. Of course when discharging steamers or ships, we employ more.



Q. How many of these are experienced men, that is what you might call tradesmen—men that have some knowledge of the business? A. Not very many.

Q. How many have you as men who are considered foremen in the different departments, or have you any? A. We have about eight.

Q. That is eight reliable men? A. Yes.

Q. About what do their wages average a week? A. About \$1.50 to \$1.60 a day.

Q. What is the average wage for the various hands you employ there? A. I should say about 11 cents an hour. The average of the whole would be between 12 and 13 cents.

Q. What hours do you work? A. Ten hours a day.

Q. Do you work extra hours any time? A. Very seldom.

Q. What allowance do you make the men for extra time? A. Just the time they are working, at the same rate as for day work.

Q. Where do you find a market for the output of the refinery? A. Seventy-five per cent. of it goes into Canada.

Q. How far west of Nova Scotia does it go? A. Well, it goes a long way. We have sent it to Winnipeg.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. I suppose it goes throughout the Dominion? A. Yes; throughout the Dominion.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have you any small boys working about the refinery? A. We employ a couple about 16 years of age.

Q. What wages do you give them? A. Five dollars a week.

Q. Are your hands employed the whole year round? A. As a rule they are.

Q. Do you shut down for repairs at any time? A. Yes. We sometimes shut down for a week or so.

Q. Is your refinery well ventilated for working in, as such places generally are? A. Yes. It is very much better than most of them.

Q. Have you any women at all working about the refinery? A. No; none at all.

Q. Your work is very hard sometimes, and the men are much exposed in consequence of the high atmosphere they are obliged to work in; I suppose there is a way of keeping them from draughts until they get cooled off? A. I do not think they are so hard work as that.

Q. Is sugar refining considered a healthy business? A. Yes, sir; I have been at it all my days, and never had a day's sickness.

Q. Have you ever had any labor troubles with your men? A. I had a little at first when I came here, but since that we have got on all right.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do you make your own barrels? A. We have a cooperage and employ men.

Q. Do they work by piece work, or by the day? A. By piece work.

Q. How much per barrel does the cooperage save? A. The person who makes the barrels pays the men. We merely give him a fixed sum for each barrel.

Q. Can you tell the earnings of the men employed there? A. About \$1.50 to \$1.60 or \$1.70 a day. It depends on how they work.

Q. What is the name of the person who has the cooperage? A. Norman Hayes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is your company connected with the sugar combine? A. No.

Q. Does the company sell to all wholesale dealers alike? A. Yes.

Q. They do not make any difference with the grocers' guild in any way? A. No.

Q. You charge the same price all around? A. We make no difference.

JAMES W. MOIR (of Moir, Son & Co., bakers, confectioners &c.) sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. You are a member of the firm of Moir, Son & Co.? A. Yes.

Q. About how many hands do you employ all told in all branches of your business. A. Last week we had 117. There may be a few more this week.

Q. All working in your own establishment? A. Yes.

Q. How many of those are journeymen bakers? A. Bread bakers?

Q. Yes? A. Eight.

Q. What do these men earn a day on an average, taking the highest and the lowest? A. I am not certain of all the figures. One man gets \$6.00; two others \$9.00, two \$10.00 and one \$12.00.

Q. Then the wages range between \$6.00 and \$12.00? A. Yes.

Q. What hours do these eight bread bakers work? A. On an average they work eleven hours and a half a day.

Q. What time do they go to work as a rule? A. During some seasons at four o'clock, and at others at three o'clock in the morning.

Q. When do they knock off? A. At from three to six o'clock in the afternoon.

Q. That is when the baking is done? A. Yes.

Q. Do these soft bread men ever work longer hours? Is there anything to cause extra work making them work longer? A. Sometimes they knock off at three o'clock, and sometimes they work until six, perhaps something later than that, but very seldom.

Q. Take the cracker bakers, what time do they go to work? A. At seven in the morning.

Q. And what time do they knock off? A. At six.

Q. What is their average wages? A. There are quite a number of boys in that room.

Q. What do boys earn? A. Some young fellows average from four to ten dollars a week, outside the foreman.

Q. What does the foreman get? A. I cannot say. The foreman is my brother and has a private arrangement with my father.

Q. Have you any young boys in your establishment? A. Yes.

Q. How many of these about have you that you consider young? A. I could not say the number, but there is quite a number.

Q. What is the age of the youngest? A. About 14.

Q. A boy of 14 that goes to work for the first time what wages do you allow him? A. From \$1.00 to \$1.50 at first.

Q. If he proves smart and efficient, what is your ordinary rule for increase? A. We have no definite rule.

Q. Tell us what has taken place in regard to any particular instance? A. We have mechanics with us who have commenced at \$1.00 a week, and are now getting from \$8 to \$9.

Q. Do the boys after learning the trade remain with you? A. Yes. All the men in the candy factory have learned all they know of the business there.

Q. How many men have you in the candy factory? A. We have 7. That is they are called men.

Q. How many boys have you there? A. There are quite a number. I could not say exactly.

Q. What are the ages of the boys? A. Fourteen is the youngest.

Q. Have you any young girls working in the candy factory? A. Yes.

Q. What is their occupation? A. Wrapping up candies and packing them.

Q. What would be the wages of these young girls? A. From \$1.25 to \$4.00 a week.

Q. What do those who earn \$1.25 a week do? A. They are kept at work wrapping up candies or picking over nuts.

Q. Would these girls have been long at the business? A. No. They would be only commencing.



Q. What hours do the boys and girls work? A. The boys work ten hours a day, and the girls work ten hours a day with the exception of ten minutes before twelve and before six—They are allowed to go before the men.

Q. Are the girls allowed to sit down during the day? A. Most of them are sitting all the time.

Q. These are the principal occupations you have. I suppose the cracker bakery takes in cake also? A. No; the two are separate.

Q. How many men have you in the cake bakery? A. Three men and a number of boys.

Q. These boys, what ages are they? A. From 14 to 20.

Q. The three men, what is their rate of wages? A. One man gets \$9.00. I do not know what the others get.

Q. Have you any system of fines or any punishment of any kind that you inflict upon your employes? A. No. There is no fine and no punishment of any kind except a scolding or a discharge.

Q. What would be supposed to be reasonable provocation for a discharge? A. Well, if they are found idling often.

Q. What infiction is imposed for being late or are they ever late? A. They are sometimes late.

Q. They are not fined? A. No.

Q. Are the doors shut after the time for commencing work? No.

Q. Can they go in after the place is opened an hour or a half hour? A. Yes; if they are a few minutes late they can come in, but if they are late any time they make it a quarter of a day late.

Q. Is the place healthy to work in and well ventilated? A. Yes.

Q. About accomodation for the women in the candy business—have you separate water closets and separate accomodation for them such as decency would demand? A. I think everything is decent enough, but we have no separate water closets. We have not separate water closets. We have a great many of them. There are nine or ten in the building.

Q. Don't you think common decency would require that they should be separate in some way? A. There are not many working in a room. I do not see any objection to our present system.

Q. Have you had any labor troubles with the men or women you employ? A. Not lately. I believe that eight or nine years ago there was a strike of some men, but that was before I was in the business, and I know very little about it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Have the employes access to the whole nine water closets? A. Yes; I believe there are eleven water closets.

A. Would it be difficult for you to class them between the males and females? A. They would lose considerable time in going from one room to another—they are in the rooms where they work.

Q. The men and women work in one room? A. Yes.

Q. You say you pay the girls \$1.25 a week on commencing? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any that you pay less than that to? A. No.

Q. What might their ages be? A. I think there are not any under 15 or 16 years of age.

Q. That is in the confectionery department? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any under that in the cracker department? A. No. We have very few.

Q. What is the sanitary condition of the bake shop? A. It is quite healthy.

Q. Do you hear any complaints with reference to it? A. Not now. We did formerly, but we improved the ventilation and now they like it.

Q. Is there an inspector of bread in Halifax? A. I believe there is.

Q. Are there many seizures for light bread? A. I have not heard of any lately.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What is the price of bread in Halifax? A. We sell a two-pound loaf for four and five cents cash.

Q. Do you sell it for that to the dealers or delivery? A. We sell it for less to dealers.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. You say there is a distinction in the price? A. That is on account of a difference in the qualities.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Is the four-cent loaf brown bread? A. No.

Q. Don't you make brown bread? A. Yes. But that is not a grade, it is a different variety.

Q. Do bakers in Halifax work as much as 20 hours on a stretch without leaving off? A. No. They might possibly do so at one time, but I cannot remember a case.

Q. What time have they off? A. They go to breakfast and dinner and have time between the jobs.

Q. Have you had any accidents to boys from your machinery? A. Not frequently. There was an accident a year ago.

Q. What was the nature of it? A. One of the boys in passing dough between rollers had his attention called elsewhere and allowed his hand to get in. There was no necessity for it, and it was wholly due to carelessness.

Q. Have you had other accidents than this case by machinery? A. Yes. A number of years ago an elevator fell and one of the boys was slightly hurt.

Q. Is the elevator closed in? A. The way it happened was, the boy was on the elevator and it fell.

Q. Is it protected so that boys cannot get on it unless they are obliged to? A. No. There is no protection.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Do you find difficulty in keeping your prices straight on account of having two prices for your bread? A. No.

Q. Do you consider it better to have different prices for different qualities of bread than to have different weights and uniform prices? A. We are compelled to have uniform weights. The bread must weigh over two or four pounds.

Q. You find no difficulty in complying with the regulations? A. No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. What is the price for the two grades paid by the consumer? A. Our prices are four and five cents to the consumer.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q. What do you do when your employés are late? A. They are found fault with for being late and we object to their coming in then. We have no strict rule about it.

JOHN CAWSEY, mason and plasterer, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. I believe your business is that of a contractor for masonry, plastering, &c. A. Yes.

Q. All these things come within your domain? A. Yes.

Q. Will you please state what is the average number of men you employ? A. It varies at different seasons of the year.

Q. Strike an average? A. Some years it is more than others.

Q. What was it during the past year? A. Not more than 20.



- Q. What wages do you pay as a general rule? A. In what line?  
 Q. Say bricklayers? A. \$2.50, \$2.75 and \$3.00.  
 Q. Is that for ten hours' work? A. Yes.  
 Q. That is supposed to be a day's work? A. Yes.  
 Q. What is the general wages paid to plasterers? A. About \$2.50 or \$2.75.  
 Q. Something the same as bricklayers? A. Something the same.  
 Q. What do you pay stonemasons? A. The wages are the same.  
 Q. What do you pay stonecutters? A. We pay the same rate of wages to all of them.  
 Q. You employ laboring men? A. Yes.  
 Q. What are the general wages of laboring men for attending upon masons?  
 A. They average \$1.25.  
 Q. Are they all about the same wages, the general laborers? A. Yes; about the same.  
 Q. Have you had any labor troubles with your men. A. None.  
 Q. Have you some men that have worked with you for a good while? A. Yes.  
 Q. The building trade as a rule, has it been good during the past season? A. Pretty good.  
 Q. Do your men have to work after hours? A. No.  
 Q. All ornamental work such as cornicing do you have it done yourself? A. Yes.  
 By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—  
 Q. Are the contractors organized here? A. No.  
 Q. Are you members of the Board of Trade of Halifax? A. No.  
 Q. Do they buy their material as a body, *en bloc*? A. No.  
 Q. Have you ever known instances in Halifax where, through the failure of contractors, the workmen do not get their wages? A. Very few, since I have been here.  
 By Mr. HEAKES:—  
 Q. Have you ever had anything to do with sewer building? A. Not in this country.

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C. J. WYLDE, Secretary Acadia Powder Company, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

- Q. You are secretary of the Acadia Powder Company? A. Yes.  
 Q. That is an industry that may be new to some of us; what number of men do you employ? A. Between twenty and thirty.  
 Q. What wages are they paid? A. Well, from \$30 to \$160 a month.  
 Q. What hours are they obliged to work over? A. Well, I think the usual hours; I think it is ten hours. The works are fifteen miles from here.  
 Q. Do they have to work after hours? A. I don't think they do. I don't think they do as a rule.  
 Q. Have you had any accidents in your factory? A. Yes; we had a man killed about six years ago.  
 Q. What was the nature of the accident; will you please explain? A. Well, nobody knew how he was killed; the building blew up and there was no trace of him, or any way of finding out the cause. It was supposed that, perhaps a piece of metal may have got into the machinery, or he may have been doing something out of the usual course, but that is all supposition.  
 Q. Is that the only accident that has happened there? A. There was an accident to a man making an excavation, but it had nothing to do with the manufacture. I think that is the only one. I think there was a slight accident by which a man was injured but not to any extent.  
 Q. If it is a fair question, has your output increased to what it was before and, if so, where is it sent to? A. Yes; it is increasing somewhat; we supply the different mines of coal and gold in the Province, and some is sent to Newfoundland.

Q. Are you able to hold your own as regards quality with powder produced elsewhere? A. Quite so.

Q. Do you send much of your powder to Ontario? A. No, we do not; we send it as far as Quebec.

Q. Have you any boys or laboring men employed apart from those engaged in the manufacture of powder? A. There is a keg mill in which some men are employed.

Q. You make the kegs you use yourselves? A. Yes.

Q. How many are employed there? A. Three or four.

Q. Are their wages the same as those of the other men? A. The superintendent gets more, and the others about the same.

Q. Do you find your men as a rule sober and industrious? A. Yes; they seem to be so. They are much so.

Q. Have many been with you any length of time? A. Yes, a long time; some of them before I was connected with the company; I have been there ten years.

Q. And that one accident was the only serious one? A. Yes; that is within my day.

Q. Is there any other factory in the section? A. That is the only one.

ROBERT TAYLOR, manufacturer of boots and shoes, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. I believe you are connected with the boot and shoe industry? A. Yes.

Q. How long have you had that in progress? A. About 17 years.

Q. Has the manufacture increased or has it gone back? A. Well, it is more than it was then.

Q. About how many hands do you employ? A. 140.

Q. There are different rates of wages I presume? A. Yes.

Q. Would you please state the different rates of wages and the reason for the difference? A. The men get from \$6 to \$10; it depends on the skill, of course.

Q. Have you any boys? A. We have a few boys, yes.

Q. About what are their ages? A. We have none less than 14 or 15.

Q. Have you any women working there? A. Yes.

Q. Are there many? A. About 40.

Q. What is their average wages? A. They get from \$2 to \$6.

Q. I suppose it depends on the skill they possess? A. Yes.

Q. \$2 would be the lowest? A. Yes.

Q. And it may get as high as \$6? A. Yes.

Q. What wages do the boys earn? A. They get from \$2 to \$3.

Q. What is considered a day's work? A. 10 hours.

Q. 60 hours a week? A. Yes.

Q. Do you do extra work? A. Yes; occasionally.

Q. Are the hands allowed for it? A. Yes; always.

Q. Just *pro rata*? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever had labor troubles with your men? A. Not for about 12 years. There was something then but never since.

Q. How did you fix it, or how would you fix it in a similar case now? A. We fixed it then by letting them go about their business and they came back with their fingers in their mouths wanting work again.

Q. Do you think that would be the best course to pursue again? A. That is what I would do if it happened again.

Q. You make use of machinery in your work? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever had an accident in connection with the machinery? A. No.

Q. Are the beltings guarded pretty well? A. Yes. I never had an accident except in the case of a girl who got hurt by a machine, but it was not anything serious.



Q. Is your factory well ventilated and healthy to work in? A. Yes; it is very well ventilated.

Q. With regard to the sanitary condition of the building inside and separate water closets for the different sexes, how is that? A. We have water closets for the men on one flat and for the women on the next; they are separate altogether.

Q. Do men and women work on the one flat together? A. No.

Q. Is the closet for the women on their flat? A. Yes.

Q. Do you find as a rule that your men are sober, orderly and industrious, or is it otherwise? A. We do not employ any in the factory but what are.

Q. You have a large output, where do you mostly find a market for it? A. Mostly in the Maritime Provinces. We send some to Newfoundland and some to Bermuda.

Q. Do you send any to the Upper Provinces? A. No; none.

Q. Are you able to find a market here for all you manufacture? A. Yes; we have all we can do. We were only idle about a fortnight last year.

By Mr. BORVIN:—

Q. Are your cutters paid by the day or by the job? A. By the day.

Q. What is their average wages? A. They get from \$7 to \$9 a week.

Q. Do any women cut? A. No.

Q. Is your closing and fitting done by the day or the job? A. All the fitting is done by the day.

Q. Is your sole leather department done as well by the day? A. Yes.

Q. Could you tell us what a good woman will earn a week? A. \$5.

Q. On fine work? A. On fine work she will earn \$6.

Q. What will a good packer earn? A. \$10.

Q. For sewing machine the same? A. Yes.

Q. Have you plenty of that kind of labor here? A. Yes; we have no trouble.

Q. Is there any fine for bad work in your factory? A. No; if they damage work they have to pay for it, that is all.

Q. Where do you get most of your raw material? A. We get most of it in the province. We get all of our sole leather here, and most of our upper.

Q. Where do you get your kid? A. In Montreal.

Q. Is there any sheepskin made in the province? A. Yes.

Q. As good as in the upper provinces? A. Yes; it is as good.

Q. Is any common sole tanned here? A. Common and good, both.

Q. Do they make any oak here? A. No.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Are you engaged in other industries besides the shoe trade? A. I am interested in sole leather tanning.

Q. Have you not a hat business? A. We import hats.

Q. A good deal of straw hats? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. What work would a woman be engaged on that would earn \$2? A. Pasting.

Q. How old would they be? A. 15 or 16.

Q. Are there any fines imposed in your factory? A. No.

Q. Are the doors closed at a certain hour? A. They are opened at 7 and closed at 12.

Q. Are they closed after the hour for coming in? A. If they come late they have to go home; yes.

Q. In winter as well as summer? A. Yes.

Q. What was the cause of the labor trouble you referred to? A. They had what is called a Crispin organization; we discharged a man and the others insisted upon his being allowed to work.

Q. Did you discharge him because he belonged to the organization? A. No; because his work did not suit.

Q. How long was he working before you found out that he did not suit? A. I think about a year.

Q. Does it take you a year to find out that a man does not suit? A. He did something—I don't remember what it was, that did not please the foreman.

Q. And because he was discharged the other men struck? A. They insisted upon his being allowed to work.

Q. Was there any communication between you before they struck? A. No.

Q. They struck abruptly because the man was not re-instated? A. Yes.

By Mr. BOIVIN:—

Q. Could boots and shoes be exported to England profitably? A. I think it has been tried without success.

Q. Do you know that since the Colonial Exhibition some shoes have been exported? A. No.

Q. Do you believe we get raw hides as cheaply as other countries? A. I think so.

Q. Do you think we have raw material put down as cheaply as other countries, say bark? A. No; I don't think we get bark as cheap as the United States. They buy a large tract of land and build their tanneries right in the middle of it, and in that way they get bark cheaper.

Q. You would think the stock is as cheap as in the United States? A. I think they can tan sole leather cheaper in the United States than here.

Q. Can you give an idea how they can make it cheaper? A. We import our hides from the United States, that is the raw South American hides, and there is freight, insurance and all that to be added.

Q. You have only the freight between New York and here? A. That is all.

Q. It is the same for tanneries and other places west? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think our labor smart enough to compete with the labor on the other side of the sea? A. I think their labor is cheaper than with us. It may be cheaper in Montreal.

Q. Have they the same machinery on the other side? A. I think they have.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Have you any competition from Quebec here? A. Yes; very close.

Q. Can they undersell you? A. Yes; in the cheaper class of goods.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. You don't care for the competition of Ontario, only that of Quebec? A. Yes.

Q. Has the foreman power to employ men at will? A. Yes.

Q. Has he objections to employing men belonging to labor organizations? A. Yes.

Q. If you knew men belonged to such organizations would you employ them? A. No.

Q. What objection have you to them? A. I think there is no necessity for them, and for that reason I would not employ men belonging to them.

Q. Do you employ a man for what he is worth according to your opinion? A. Yes.

Q. Has not a man the right to put a price on his labor? A. Yes; and I have the same right.

Q. Would not men be better if they engaged as a body, than if they engaged singly? A. No; I think such combinations are a mistake. If men are treated well they are better off without them.

Q. Did you ever know the members of any labor organization to be of the same opinion? A. No.

Q. From your experience you think that one man is often better than another; that some men are more skilled and do far more work in a day than another? A. We have men that are better worth \$10 a week than others are worth \$7.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. When the door is locked who has the key? A. The foreman.



Q. Can employés get out if they wish? A. No; we keep the door locked for half an hour after we open.

Q. Then it is opened again? A. Yes; it is then opened until 7.30.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Has the foreman the privilege of going all over the factory? A. Yes.

Q. Suppose a fire took place how would the door be opened? A. He is in the office.

Q. Suppose he was out? A. The key is kept in the office, and either the clerk or the foreman would be there.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. Do manufacturers in Halifax get boots and shoes made in Quebec? A. No; very few.

Q. It is done by some? A. I think one firm buys there; that is all.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Have you any combination among the manufacturers to keep up the prices? A. No.

Q. You don't approve of them? A. No.

Q. You think everything ought to be open to competition? A. I think every man should stand on his own bottom, as the old saying is.

Q. You don't think one pair of shoes should be sold for the same price as another if it is not so good? A. I think they should be sold for what they are worth.

HENRY R. BONN (Superintendent of the Mayflower Tobacco Factory), sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. You are the superintendent of the Mayflower Tobacco Factory? A. I am, sir.

Q. Would you have the kindness to tell us how many hands you employ in that factory altogether? A. I have now about 74.

Q. About 74? Yes, sir.

Q. Would you be able to tell us as near as possible from your recollection how many journeymen there would be in that number? A. We have none that we call journeymen; they are all laborers, We have 21 men.

Q. And how many women? A. We have 50 girls and women employed.

Q. Have you any very young girls or boys there? A. I think the youngest girl is fifteen years of age.

Q. About fifteen? A. Yes.

Q. Would you please state what wages you give the men? A. Well some of the men get \$6.00 a week and some of them get \$6.50.

Q. What would the lowest paid get? A. \$6.00.

Q. What would the highest get? A. \$6.50.

Q. Is that a fair average for the men's wages per week? A. Yes.

Q. How many hours do they work for those wages? A. 10 hours. That is the usual day's work.

Q. Do you have any work after hours? A. No, sir.

Q. What wages do the women earn? A. Well, they earn different wages; it is according to the way they work; most of them are on piece work. Those of them who do ordinary work earn 50 cents a day, but those on piece work earn from \$6.00 to \$6.50 a week, some of them

Q. The women who work on piece work are more expert? A. Yes.

Q. Is it the rule that the women who earn day's wages get upwards afterwards? A. No; I hardly ever take them from that position and put them in the way of promotion, because they do not wish it; they prefer day's work. I have to get new hands when I want to increase the other work.

Q. What wages do you pay the girls and boys? A. The girls are on piece work and the boys on day's work. One of the girls gets \$3.00, another \$4.00, and another \$5.00.

Q. Do any come to you as apprentices? A. No.

Q. There is no binding or anything of that kind at all? No, sir.

Q. I believe your experience does not run over a long time in connection with this factory? A. A little over four years.

Q. The reason I ask is I want to know if any of these people have been working any length of time in your factory? A. We are constantly changing but most of the girls have been there ever since I came, and some two or three of the men.

Q. Do you find your hands as a rule industrious and sober men or otherwise? A. Yes; we have never found them otherwise.

Q. Have you any trouble with your men, or labor? A. Very little. Now and then a misunderstanding arises, but it is soon fixed up.

Q. Is there any system of fines in your factory? A. No, sir.

Q. What penalty do you inflict on your hands if they are guilty of fault? A. We discharge them.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are your hands employed all the year around? A. No, sir.

Q. About how long do you close? A. I think that during the past winter we shut down about two months.

Q. Would your regular hands average ten months' work during the year? A. Well, I don't think so.

Q. Would they average 9 months? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you pay the same rates summer and winter? A. Yes.

Q. Both to your weekly hands and your piece hands? A. Yes.

Q. Do you inflict any punishment upon your hands except to discharge them?

A. No, sir.

Q. You have no black hole in which apprentices are confined? A. No.

Q. Would you know if any apprentices had been beaten; would it come to your knowledge? A. It would.

Q. If you were aware that a foreman beat a boy grossly what would be your action? A. I would immediately discharge him.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Have you separate closets for men and women? A. Yes.

Q. How are they divided? A. By a board partition.

Q. Are the doors side by side? A. No; there is a partition all the way across.

Q. Is the ventilation of your factory good? A. Yes.

Q. Is the drainage good? A. Yes.

Q. There have been no complaints about the condition of the building? A. No, sir.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q. Where is your factory? A. On Cornwallis street.

Q. How high is it? A. Three storeys.

Q. Are there good chances of getting out in case of fire? A. Yes.

Q. What are they? A. The street stairway could empty the building in the minutes.

Q. How wide is the stairway? A. Three or four feet.

Q. Is it encased? A. No, sir.

Q. How do the doors open? A. They open in.

Q. Would you not think it would be safer if they opened out? A. I don't know.

Q. In case of a panic how could the people get out? A. I am sure there are chances of a panic.

Q. Might there not be in case of a fire? A. There is nothing to create it; building is entirely fire proof; the boiler is in a different part of the building.



where the hands work, and that is the only fire in the building. We are heated by steam.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is your engineer a competent man? A. I think so.

Q. Has he passed an examination? A. I don't think so.

Q. Has he a certificate? A. I don't know.

Q. Do you search your employés on leaving? A. Yes.

Q. Are the young women searched? A. No; the men and the boys are searched.

Q. Who searches them? A. The foreman.

Q. The women are not searched? A. No.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Why do the women prefer day's work to piece work? A. I can't tell why. It is probably easier.

Q. Where do you get your raw material? A. From Kentucky and Virginia.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q. Where do you find a market? A. In these Provinces.

Q. Do you make shipments to the upper provinces? A. No.

Q. Can you compete with the upper provinces? A. We find it hard but we are struggling to do so.

Q. Can you explain why you find it hard? A. I think for a time our tobacco was out of the market. It was out of the market for two years at least, and during that time the upper provinces sent large quantities of tobacco here, and their brands commenced to take with the people. When people take to a brand it is hard to change them, though we cannot complain of our sales. We are doing very well as far as that is concerned.

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JOSEPH CLARKE, acting superintendent cotton factory, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. I believe you are acting superintendent of the cotton factory? A. Yes.

Q. Would you please inform us how many hands you have actively employed? A. We have a few over 300.

Q. What proportion of those are men, and what women? A. We have 45 men 110 women, and girls and boys constitute the balance.

Q. What age is the youngest child? A. About 12 years; we have very few that age.

Q. What is the youngest succeeding age? A. They average about 14.

Q. What is the average pay of a man employé? A. \$7.50 a week. That is correct average; some are higher and some lower.

Q. What would be the correct average of the women's wages? A. They average about \$3.90 a week.

Q. Like the men, some are higher and some lower? A. Yes.

Q. Do they work day's work or piece work? A. Both.

Q. What are the children employed about? A. In docking frames, picking bins, sweeping and learning to weave.

Q. What wages do you pay children? A. \$1.25 is a fair average.

Q. What would be the lowest? A. \$1.

Q. What progress in their wages do you make, or have you a standard? A. We have no standard, it is according to merit.

Q. Are any of the children on piece work? A. No; except in the spinning department.

Q. How many are on piece work there? A. Probably a dozen.

Q. Are any children apprenticed? A. No; they learn to weave sometimes.

Q. Are there any hands in the factory who have been there since the commencement? A. There are some.

Q. A large number? A. No; not a large number.

Q. Have you had any trouble with your employes? A. Not any labor trouble.

Q. Are your people generally industrious and sober? A. Yes; we find them so. They attend punctually to their work, though in the summer we have troubles, such as pic-nics.

Q. What hours do you work? A. 60 hours a week.

Q. Do they ever work longer? A. Very seldom; in some departments perhaps an hour or so.

Q. Is there an allowance for extra time? A. Yes. Some are paid by piece work and some by the time. We do not give them anything extra; we do so little of it.

Q. What kind of accommodation have you in the shape of water closets and ventilation? A. We have apartments in each room divided by brick walls.

Q. Is there a partition so that the doors can be separated? A. They enter by separate doors.

Q. Are the doors far enough away, so that the sexes cannot have a view of one another entering? A. I cannot say that they are.

Q. Don't you think it would be advisable? A. Perhaps it would, but we never had any difficulty. The overseer looks to that well. If he finds them away from their machines more than a certain time he looks them up.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. The closets are side by side? A. Yes.

Q. And in full view? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any agreements with your hands or printed rules? A. There are rules as to the hours of work, punctual attendance and fines.

Q. For what are employes fined other than for being late? A. They are fined for bad workmanship.

Q. What has been the amount of fines imposed on employes during the past year? A. Probably \$100 to \$150.

Q. That is spread among how many people? A. We employ 300.

Q. Do they all pay fines? A. No; they are imposed more particularly in the weaving department.

Q. What is the highest amount a weaver is fined? A. Twenty-five cents, except they ruin a piece of cloth; then they are fined the cost.

Q. Have you ever known an operative fined through oil dropping on the cloth through fault of the machinery? A. It would be through carelessness if a fine were imposed for cloth spoiled by oil dropping on it.

Q. Have such cases happened? A. Yes; but not often.

Q. How much would you fine an operative whose cloth was spoiled in that manner? A. If he spoiled three yards he would be fined three yards and so on.

Q. How much a piece do they get for weaving two harness work? A. They average 20 cents.

Q. And on three harness work? A. From 16 to 26 cents.

Q. How many looms does each female have charge of? A. They average four.

Q. How many pieces will a loom turn out a day? A. They should turn out one piece.

Q. Are fines imposed on children as well as adults? A. Yes. It depends on what they do.

Q. What is the lowest amount of a fine imposed? A. Five cents.

Q. How much are they fined when late? A. 2, 4 and 5 cents.

Q. It depends on the amount of time they are late? A. Yes.

Q. If they are ten minutes late are they allowed to go to work? A. Yes; but they are fined half an hour.

Q. How is it if they are later than that? A. They might as well go home.



Q. What time are children allowed for dinner, or rather, is every care taken to protect the morality of the people? A. Most positively.

Q. Are you aware of bad language being used among the operatives? A. Not personally; of course such rudeness would be occasioned by outside influences.

Q. Is there any rule forbidding it? A. There is a rule that operatives must not talk while working.

Q. Suppose an overseer should use bad language towards an operative is there any rule regarding that? A. No; there is thought to be no occasion for it.

Q. If such a thing is done is there any punishment for it? A. The manager might talk to him about it.

Q. Have you ever had such cases reported? A. I have not.

Q. Do you employ any carpenters about the mill? A. We do.

Q. What wages do you pay them? A. \$1.65 a day.

Q. Do you employ them constantly? A. No.

Q. Is the mill running all the year round? A. Yes.

Q. The operatives lose no time except in consequence of pic-nics? How many of them do they have? A. They might have a dozen.

Q. You mean that they go to others than their own? A. Yes. We have a picnic for the operatives.

Q. And you complain that they go to others? A. Yes; we try to stop them.

Q. Have you ever Saturday half holidays? A. Always.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. What would be the amount of wages paid out during the twelve months? A. About \$55,000.

Q. How many stories is your building? A. Three.

Q. What means of escape have you? A. Iron ladders.

Q. Outside the building? A. Yes.

Q. You have stairs also? A. Yes.

Q. Is the stairway roomy? A. Quite so.

Q. Do the doors open in or out? A. Out.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How frequently do you pay your hands? A. Once a fortnight. We pay on Thursday to the previous Saturday.

Q. Has any application ever been made for more frequent payments? A. Never.

Q. What notice do you require from employés who leave? A. A week's notice.

Q. If they leave without notice what is the penalty? A. They forfeit their wages.

Q. Have these forfeitures been frequent? A. No.

Q. What amount was forfeited by the employés during the past year? A. I might make an estimate of it.

Q. Would it be possible for you to find out and send the figures to the Commission? A. There would probably be \$40 or \$50 during the year.

Q. Have there been any forfeitures of wages except in cases where operatives leaving have failed to give notice? A. No.

Q. If people should leave from accident or any unforeseen cause would you forfeit their pay? A. No.

Q. You would pay them in full? A. We would.

Q. If an employé is dismissed without notice do you give anything beyond the wages earned? A. No.

Q. Do you dismiss employés without notice? A. No.

Q. Are any punishments inflicted on persons employed? A. No.

Q. If you learned of a foreman punishing by beating or imprisonment, what action would you take? A. We would weigh the pros and cons to see if it was an exceptional case. There are instances where perhaps the overseer is very much annoyed at a hand offending, perhaps twice in a day, and he might push him.

Q. If he were to beat a child would the management sustain him in that case?  
A. It would depend pretty much.

Q. Have you known cases where children have been beaten by the overseers and the management sustained them? A. What do you mean by beating?

Q. Striking? A. I cannot place a case of that kind.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. What becomes of the fines? A. The wages are just so much less.

Q. Don't the employés receive any benefit from them? A. No.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do you see any reason why a fine paid by one employé should go to another? A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Have you known cases of punishment by kicking or pushing so that a child would sustain any bodily injury? A. No.

Q. The policy of the company, is it to discourage such abuses of authority? A. It is, decidedly.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. If any machinery breaks during work hours has an employé to work over-time to make it up? A. Perhaps, sometimes.

Q. Has that ever happened? A. Yes; it has.

Q. Would the employé receive anything for the overtime? A. We just pay the regular wages; he is not forced to work overtime.

Q. Would you consider that overtime? A. Yes.

Q. Have you a winding room? A. Yes.

Q. How much do you pay experienced women? A. \$4 to \$6.

Q. How many women have you in your winding room? A. About 30, perhaps; they are not all winders.

Q. Do the majority of them receive \$6? A. No.

Q. What would be the wages of a woman who can attend four looms? A. About \$5.50.

Q. What would be the wages of a woman that attends three looms? A. That would be about \$1 25 less.

Q. What do you pay women that are looked upon as twistors; how much do you pay them? A. They are paid by piece work; they sometimes earn \$5.00 a week; the average is \$4.25.

Q. What is the wages in the spinning room? A. About \$4.00.

Q. And in the reeling room? A. That would be \$2.25.

Q. Do any of the young women eat their lunch in the factory? A. They do.

Q. Have you a separate room for that purpose? A. No.

Q. During this eating time is the machinery stopped? A. Yes.

Q. Is there any dust in the spinning room? A. Not so much as in the carding room.

Q. Is the carding room well ventilated? A. Yes.

Q. Is drinking water kept handy? A. Yes; quite so—in each room.

Q. Do the men and the women stop work at the same time in the evenings?  
A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever think it would be better if the women were discharged half an hour earlier? A. No.

Q. You have had no occasion to consider that? A. No.

Q. Do you get many hands that are looked upon as foreigners? A. No; most of the people we employ are natives.



CHARLES LONGARD, Secretary Nova Scotia Building Society, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. You are secretary, I believe, of the Nova Scotia Building Society? A. I am secretary and manager.

Q. Will you give us an outline of the working of the society? A. The word "building society" does not clearly designate our business. It is a general term. Ours is a co-operative loan society or co-operative bank.

Q. Have you any rules or regulations by which it is guided of which we can obtain a copy? A. Yes.

Q. Will you send a copy of such rules and regulations to the Commission? A. Yes.

Q. What is the scope of the society? A. The object of the society is to provide a fund by the savings of members, from which advances are made on real estate security.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do you mean advances to build? A. Advances for any purpose. It is a loan association.

Q. Then the advances are not for building alone? A. We give money for any purpose, but on real estate security only.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you lend money only to members? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What constitutes membership? A. Subscription to shares.

Q. What is the cost of a share? A. \$240.

Q. And unless a person can purchase a share he cannot borrow money? A. The subscription for a share is \$2.40 per month, and each person paying that amount is entitled to receive the amount of his share in advance.

Q. What is the \$2.40? It is a repayment of the amount borrowed spread over a period of 11 years and 7 months.

Q. Do you lend money only on real estate? A. Yes.

Q. You do not have leasehold property in this country? A. Yes; to some extent.

Q. Do you lend money on that? A. Yes. The Common's property is leased from the city for a period of 999 years and we accept that.

Q. Yes; but what I referred to was leases for a period of say 21 years? A. We never touch that business.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How do you lend money? A. It is put up at auction among the members.

Q. Have you an upset premium or do you start it flat? A. We start it flat.

Q. What is the usual premium given by buyers? A. The average is about two per cent., but at present it is two and one quarter per cent.

Q. It varies I suppose from month to month? A. Yes. It varies according to the state of the market.

Q. Have you a committee whose duty it is to investigate property? A. Yes.

Q. What is the margin of value of property according to the assessment rate to which you lend money? A. The assessment rate and valuation varies so in different parts of the province that we can hardly judge anything from the assessed value.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. In the city of Halifax what percentage do you advance, say on property assessed at \$1,000? A. We allow two-thirds.

Q. In what territory do you lend money? A. Only in the Province of Nova Scotia; though we have authority from the Dominion Government to extend our business into the Maritime Provinces we have never used it.

Q. You have a charter then from the Dominion Government? A. Yes.

Q. What rate of interest do borrowers pay? A. Six per cent.

Q. Do they pay interest monthly as they pay on the principal? A. Yes. The borrower pays a fixed sum per month, and as the amount of interest is reduced the difference goes on the principal account.

Q. Have you any system of fines? A. Yes; we have.

Q. What is the amount of the fine? A. It is at the rate of five cents per month for every \$2.40—that is to make up the losses of interest.

Q. All the fines go to the benefit of the institution? A. Yes.

Q. Do you keep a separate account of the fines? A. Yes.

Q. What would be the amount of them in the run of a year? A. For last year the amount was \$362.

Q. What was the amount of money on mortgage? \$453,000.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Can a man lend or invest his capital through the medium of your society without becoming a principal? A. Yes.

Q. What is the rate of interest paid? A. For a non-member it would depend on the market rate, but would be about one-quarter per cent. more than the amount given by the savings bank.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How long has the society been in existence? A. Since 1850.

Q. What has been the amount of loss sustained during that time? A. I have not figures as to that, but I think about \$75,000 or \$80,000.

Q. You have declared dividends during that time to a large extent? A. We have. We declared dividends among shareholders of 15 per cent.

Q. Is that the average dividend? A. No. It was exceptional.

Q. What would be the lowest dividend? A. It is our aim not to pay high dividends, but rather to reduce the rate to the borrower so as to make it six per cent. and give that to the investor.

Q. Is your stock matured? A. Yes.

Q. Have stockholders remained in the society without becoming borrowers? A. Yes.

Q. They get full value in cash? A. Yes. There is a profit and loss account for each stockholder and we strike a division each year. There have been occasions when there has been a rebate of two per cent., that is for the whole term.

Q. Is there any notification necessary for withdrawal? A. The rules require a month's notice, but we waive that and pay on demand.

Q. When a stockholder withdraws what interest does he receive? A. Six per cent. But he has to pay a proportion of the loss.

Q. Are you able to tell us what class of persons for the most part becomes stockholders? A. We have all classes in the society.

Q. Are there many workmen in the society? A. Yes; there are a good many.

Q. Have many of them borrowed money for the purpose of building houses? A. Yes; and we have a good many as investors.

Q. Do they hold stock until maturity? A. Yes.

Q. Can you give an idea of the number who take stock for the purpose of building, or who hold it for investment—say at the present time? A. I might say that the society was originally restricted to three miles from the market square and at that time we had a great many; but at present the majority of our stockholders are out of the city.

Q. At all events a large number of such people have been stockholders? A. Yes.

Q. And are so now. A. Yes. From eight to nine hundred persons are redeeming their properties through the society.

Q. Could you tell the Commission about how many of these people are workmen? A. I do not know that I could.



By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. What security have the investors? A. All the assets of the society. The money of the society is all invested in real estate security.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How long have you been connected with the society? A. I have been in the office for 24 years. I have been manager for two years.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you issue stock from time to time? A. Yes; we are doing it every day. The first Monday of each month is the day of entry.

Q. Then in any month any person who desires to do so can take stock? A. Yes; dating from the following first Monday of the month.

JOHN McINNIS, of McIntosh & McInnis, builders, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:

Q. I believe you represent the firm of McIntosh & McInnis, builders? A. Yes.

Q. You are general contractors? A. Yes; general contractors and lumber dealers.

Q. Would you tell the Commission what is the general or average number of hands you employ? A. The average, I suppose, throughout the year, would be about 40. Sometimes we have 100, and sometimes the number is down to 20.

Q. Was the past season a fair season for work in this city? A. It was just a fair season.

Q. What was the average wages of your journeymen carpenters? A. \$1.60 a day.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Is that for bench hands or outside hands? A. That is the average—some hands get more.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. You pay something higher to your foreman? A. Yes, he gets higher wages.

Q. What is about the amount of the foreman's wages? A. Sometimes \$2 and sometimes \$1.75. We have a foreman we pay \$1.75 a day to all the year round.

Q. You, I suppose, have superintendence of the work all round? A. We both superintend.

Q. You are mostly the out-door man? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any hands that you do not consider first-class that you pay less to? A. Yes, we have some, of course, that do not profess to be good mechanics.

Q. How much do they work for? A. All the way from \$1.25 to \$1.50.

Q. You employ a great many laborers, too? A. Yes; sometimes.

Q. What is the average of the wages of the laboring men you employ? A. I think they average from \$1.10 to \$1.25 a day. \$1.10 I think would be the average.

Q. Have you also men on the wharf working in connection with the lumber business—or men who take charge, and if so, what are their wages? A. They get \$3 a week all the year round.

Q. Are they engaged for the year? A. Yes, they get their pay whether they work or not.

Q. What is considered the length of time for a day's work? A. In the summer season ten hours, and in the winter season eight hours.

Q. You sometimes work after hours? A. Sometimes, but very seldom.

Q. Do you allow in proportion to the wages for extra time? A. Yes; they get extra pay.

Q. As a general rule with regard to your hands, are they intelligent and temperate and pretty good men? A. Yes; our men are very temperate.

Q. Have you had any labor troubles with them? A. No; we have never had any.

Q. Some of your hands have been with you a good while? A. Yes, some as long as 15 to 18 years.

Q. Do you ever have apprentices? A. Sometimes; generally one or two.

Q. Do you take them under indentures? A. No; they are never bound.

Q. What do you generally allow them? A. Generally \$1.50 a week, and then we increase 50 cents a week each year. Some boys are smarter than others and get on better.

Q. How many boys have you now? A. We have only one at present.

Q. With regard to your lumber business, is the price of lumber increasing or decreasing—or is the quality getting better or worse? A. A good quality of pine lumber is increasing in price; a real good quality is pretty hard to get. Spruce and hemlock keep about the same. Spruce goes from \$3 to \$12, according to the quality.

Q. What about pine? A. That is about \$30; we have sometimes to pay as high as \$60 from Ontario.

Q. You have in your establishment other woods? A. Yes; oak, walnut, cherry, &c.

Q. What is the average price not of first-class, but of good merchantable walnut, for instance? A. For good walnut we have paid as high as \$200, and all the way from \$90 to \$100.

Q. Where do you import that from? A. Most of it comes from Boston.

Q. Do you import white wood also? A. Yes.

Q. What is the price of white wood? A. Good white wood costs from \$35 to \$40.

Q. Is there much imported? A. Yes; a great deal now.

Q. Do you get any pine from Newfoundland? A. Yes; we have had it from there.

Q. What kind have they there? A. It is very good.

Q. You import pitch pine too, and red wood? A. Yes.

Q. What is the price of that? A. Pitch pine averages \$30 to \$40. It is of course according to the size and dimensions of it.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do you employ machine hands? A. No.

Q. Have you any joiners working for less than \$1.60 on the bench? A. No.

J. F. VAN DE VENTER, Manager of the Halifax Street Railway, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. You represent the Halifax Street Railway? A. I do.

Q. Have you been long engaged in that work? A. Yes.

Q. Would you state to the Commission how many men you have engaged in the city in connection with the work? A. From 30 to 40.

Q. How many of these are drivers? A. They average 15.

Q. How many of these are conductors? A. We use the drivers as conductors in the summer time.

Q. Have you any men specially as conductors? A. No.

Q. How many have you as groom hands? A. Seven, and two feeders.

Q. Have you blacksmiths in connection with the road? A. One blacksmith and one helper.

Q. How many horses have you altogether? A. At present we have 82.

Q. Do you think in all respects you have sufficient help for the number of horses, and the work to be done? A. Quite sufficient.



Q. What hours do you work? What hours do you consider a day's work for one of your drivers? A. Their actual work is eight hours and fifty-one minutes.

Q. Do they work all these hours in succession? A. No.

Q. What time have they off? A. It depends on the trips. Some trips they have an hour; others, a half hour; and others, only fifteen minutes. Each man has his dinner, breakfast and supper hour.

Q. Is that the same routine every day for the same man? A. Yes.

Q. What hours are the stable men obliged to be around? A. They come about six in the morning and take turns about getting off every second night. We never keep them later than 7 or 7.30, unless during a sudden storm or something of that kind, and then they are paid extra.

Q. What wages do you pay the drivers? A. \$1.25 a day, and all extra time in case there should be extra work.

Q. What do you pay the stable hands? A. We pay them \$7.

Q. What do you pay the blacksmith? A. We pay him \$14 and the help gets half that.

Q. The blacksmith, what hours does he work? A. From 7 to 6.

Q. If a horse loses a shoe at night what do you do? A. Put another horse in his place, and lay him up until the next morning.

Q. Do you change your men frequently? A. Not the drivers. Of course we find it necessary to change the hostlers frequently.

Q. Are your drivers sober, industrious men? A. They are until they prove that they are not.

Q. What is their general character? A. Of course the stable men are pretty rough people, but we try to employ the best we can get. All in our employ at present are steady, sober men.

Q. Does the blacksmith give good satisfaction? A. Entirely so.

Q. Have you had any trouble with any of your men? A. None whatever.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. From time to time the men are actually called in the morning until they are set at liberty, does that constitute eight hours and fifty-one minutes? A. No, sir.

Q. What are the hours? A. They are according to the time table. A man going on at 11.32 in the day, finishes at 11.20 at night.

Q. Suppose a man is late, what is the consequence? A. He loses his car for that trip; if he gives a satisfactory explanation he takes it for the next trip.

Q. Is he deducted for the trip? A. Yes; the extra man gets it.

Q. Do the men sleep in the stables? A. No; we have two watchmen there.

Q. Do the men carry their change? A. Yes.

Q. What does it amount to? A. \$5 they are supposed to carry.

Q. What are the hours on Sunday? A. The first car starts at 9.24 o'clock, and the last car at 10.09.

Q. What opportunities have the men to go to church? A. Those who wish to go before nine o'clock can go.

Q. And those who have no church before nine o'clock? A. We try to fix it so that they can get the late trips.

Q. Is there any particular rule? A. We give each driver a chance on Sunday; the man off last Sunday will be on next Sunday, and we work it that way alternately. If they want to go off we always give them a chance.

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JAMES BRODIE, carpenter, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. I presume that you are considered a first-class man? A. Yes.

Q. Might I ask what wages you get? A. \$1.60 a day.

Q. What time constitutes a day's work? A. Ten hours.

Q. Beginning at seven in the morning? A. Yes; that is when we work in summer, full time.

Q. What time do you work in winter? A. Eight hours and a-half this winter.

Q. Is your work mostly outside, or do you work much at the bench? A. Half inside and half outside, about.

Q. Do you consider that the hours of labor are excessive, or that the wages are too small? A. I think that the wages are rather small.

Q. What would you think that the wages ought to be—you know that in these matters, when a man is giving evidence, he must speak of himself and must take into consideration all the circumstances; now, according to your belief of the matter, what do you think the wages ought fairly to be? A. To the best of my knowledge, I think it should be from \$1.75 to \$2 a day for ten hours.

Q. Is there any objection otherwise to the working of the present system, that is, in addition to the one you spoke of? A. No; that is all.

Q. Are you a member of any labor organization? A. Yes; the Carpenters and Joiners' Union.

Q. Have you ever had any strikes or troubles of any kind with your employers? A. No; not as I know of.

Q. You have never been in any yourself? A. No.

Q. Do you get your wages paid regularly? A. Every fortnight.

Q. What days are you paid? A. Saturdays.

Q. Do you think Saturday is the best day for a workman to be paid? A. It suits me very well, sir; I cannot complain.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Can you tell us what is the proportion of lost time in a year? A. I cannot very well tell you that. No.

Q. How many months in the year do you work short time? A. Somewhere about five months, I think.

Q. Eight hours a day for five months? A. Eight and a-half is what we work in winter; we did that this winter.

Q. Is that the rule in the city of Halifax, eight and a-half hours? A. I do not think it is with all employers.

Q. Do you know of any others who work less than that? A. No; I could not tell you exactly.

Q. Have you any idea what amount of money the average earnings of a carpenter is in a year? A. No; I could not tell you that.

Q. Have you any benevolent features in the society to which you belong? A. There are death benefits.

Q. How much do they pay? A. I do not really know; you can get it from the president, he is here now. I have not got the book with me.

Q. Have you any other benefits, beside the death benefit for members? A. Yes; there are several small benefits.

Q. Have you found this society a benefit to you in trade matters? A. Yes; I have—quite a benefit.

Q. It has not been the cause of any trouble between you and your employer? A. No; not as I know of.

Q. What rate of wages would be a fair average for the shop you work in? A. I can't say; some get more than me.

Q. Do you know the highest wages paid to bench hands in your shop? A. I think it is somewhere about \$1.75 or \$2 a day.

Q. Do they get the same wages all the year round? A. No; they get paid by the hour.

Q. Do they get paid at the same rate per hour, that is my meaning? A. Yes.

Q. Could you tell us how many carpenters own their own houses here? A. No; I do not know.

Q. What is the average rent a mechanic pays for house rent? A. I can't tell you that, because I am boarding here myself.



By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. Are there any apprentices in the shop you are working in? A. There is one, I think, that is all.

Q. Do you usually take more than one? A. Yes; there are sometimes two and like that.

Q. They just work the same hours as the men in the shop work? A. Yes.

Q. And work eight hours and a half in winter? A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever work in any other place in the United States or the other Provinces? A. No.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Do any of the employers in Halifax decline to employ union men? A. Not as I know of.

Q. Do the members of the union decline to work with non-union men? A. I think they do not, not as I know of. We always try to get them to join, but there is no objection to them.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. How long has an apprentice to serve before he becomes a journeyman? A. About five years.

Q. Are they indentured? A. I do not think so. I could not really tell you that.

Q. Do you think that the journeymen as a body would prefer to see the apprentices indentured? A. That I could not give an answer to.

Q. How long have you been working in the city of Halifax as a journeyman carpenter? A. Somewhere about eight years.

ALEXANDER FRASER, carpenter, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. How long have you been working as a journeyman carpeater? A. About fifteen years.

Q. During the fifteen years of work, do you consider whether the times are better now for carpenters than before? A. Well, I don't see that they're any better.

Q. What is the wages of carpenters now? A. They run from \$1.40 to \$1.60, and I got that fifteen years ago, that is \$1.60.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Do you get the same now? A. Yes; I get the same at the present time, well, a little more now.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. What wages do you receive at the present time? A. Seventeen and a half cents an hour, \$1.75 a day.

Q. Have you any fault to find with your employers? A. No.

Q. Do you get your pay regularly? A. Yes.

Q. On what day of the week are you paid as a general rule? A. On Saturday, every week.

Q. Do you think that weekly payment is more convenient for men than fortnightly payment? A. No; I do not think so.

Q. Why do you think it is not better? A. I think men handle too much money in a week and don't amount to anything.

Q. Do you think it is not safe with them? A. No; I think the fortnightly pay is the safest for the men.

Q. Could you tell us now as being a man with a family and all that kind of thing, whether your expenses are more now than ten or fifteen years ago? A. Yes; they are.

Q. How much more is it expensive? A. I suppose now it is about \$3 a week more.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. That is in the space of fifteen years? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What are your hours of work? A. Ten hours in summer, nine and a half now.

Q. Do you know any carpenters in the city of Halifax owning property or houses of their own? A. No; I do not know any.

Q. You say you work ten hours in summer? A. Yes.

Q. And by the rate you are paid, namely, seventeen cents an hour? A. Yes.

Q. Are there many apprentices in the employ in which you are at present? A. One.

Q. About what age is he? A. About nineteen.

Q. Have you any idea what wages those boys get when they commence work as apprentices? A. No.

Q. How long do they serve as apprentices as a rule? A. I suppose, five years, that is what I served.

Q. Do these boys remain with their employers after they get out of their time? A. If the employer gives them wages enough they do.

Q. What would be the wages of an apprentice the last year of his apprenticeship? A. He ought to get about \$6 a week.

Q. I want what they are paid? A. I cannot tell you that.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Have you any machinery in the shop in which you are working now? A. No.

Q. Are any of the men or what proportion of them are there in Halifax who are capable of taking work off a plan, that is taking the details and working them out for themselves? A. I could not answer that question.

Q. Could you tell us if the rate of wages you have mentioned is the average for your shop? That is \$1.60 a day? A. No.

Q. What would be a fair average for your shop? A. Well, \$1.75 a day would be a fair average.

Q. What men are there getting from \$1.60 down that you mentioned are they working in your establishment? A. Yes.

Q. Are these skilled mechanics? A. Yes; they are.

Q. What kind of work are they engaged in? A. They are engaged on the best work in the shop and get the smallest pay.

Q. Have you ever made a calculation of the number of days a carpenter can work in a year allowing for short time in winter? A. No.

Q. Taking into consideration the amount of money that a carpenter has to lay out for tools is he paid in proportion to other trades? A. No.

Q. How much below other trades are carpenters paid in the city of Halifax; in the building trade I now mean? A. I never figured that out, but they are paid a good deal less than others; they are below the others.

Q. Do you know the wages bricklayers receive? A. Yes.

Q. How much is it? A. \$2.75 a day.

Q. A dollar a day more than the carpenters? A. Yes.

Q. Is there more skill required in bricklaying than in carpentry. A. Not so much.

Q. Are the shops in Halifax comfortable to work in in the winter? A. Some of them ain't.

Q. Are they cold? A. Yes.

Q. Are any of them drafty? A. There is lots of drafts.

Q. Are proper conveniences provided for men in the shops—closets and other accommodations? A. No.



Q. Is there any provision made for men working on buildings in that direction? A. No.

Q. The men have to fish for themselves? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you think that a carpenter having a family to support can do so comfortably, paying rent, &c., and save money on seventeen cents and a-half per hour even if he worked the entire year round? A. No; he cannot. I do not think he could—I am just now only speaking of the wages paid here.

Q. Has your rent increased during the past 15 years? A. Yes; it has.

Q. How much per cent.? A. I suppose about 10 per cent.—I could not say positively.

Q. What would a carpenter pay as rent for a comfortable house in a respectable locality, say one of six rooms? A. It would cost between \$7 and \$8 a month.

Q. In a house by himself or would it be a tenement? A. It would be a tenement at that.

Q. Do the carpenters as a body prefer to have the apprentices indentured? A. No.

Q. Have you worked at places outside of Halifax? A. Yes.

Q. Where? A. In Boston and in St. John, N.B.

Q. What is the difference in the wages between Halifax and Boston? A. The wages in Boston—that is about six years ago since I worked there—were \$2 a day.

Q. And what would be the wages here six years ago? A. About \$1.50 then.

Q. Is there any difference in the cost of living for a carpenter in both places? A. Well, no; not much.

Q. Would the difference in living be equivalent to the difference in pay? A. No; it would not.

Q. Do you belong to the Carpenters Association? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think it is a benefit to the carpenters as a body to connect themselves with the association? A. I do.

Q. Do you think the carpenters as a body would be receiving the pay they now do were they not organized? A. No.

Q. Is there any benefit fund in connection with your society? A. No.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Is there any benefit from your society? A. Yes; there is a benefit at your death or your wife's death, that is all.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. You say it costs more to live now than it did 15 years ago? A. Yes.

Q. Is flour any dearer? A. Well, as regards flour, I don't know if it is any cheaper or not, we could buy flour at that time for the same.

Q. Are meat and vegetables and the other necessities of life more costly now than then? A. Meat is.

Q. Your rent you say is ten per cent. higher? A. Yes.

Q. That would be about the average rent paid for a house of 5 or 6 rooms—that is \$7 a month? A. Yes.

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MICHAEL McNEIL carpenter, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How long have you been employed as a carpenter? A. About 17 years.

Q. What length of time have you been in your present employ? A. About six years.

Q. What is the rate of wages you are at present receiving? A. \$1.70 a day is the highest I ever got in the place where I am working.

Q. Did you get more at any time? A. Not where I am working.

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Q. Did you anywhere else? A. Yes.

Q. Is \$1.70 the average wages of a first-class man in the establishment you are now working in? A. I do not think there are more than two or three getting that wages.

Q. That would be the fair average wages that the men in that establishment are getting? A. Well. I suppose it is from \$1.40 to \$1.70 the average wages.

Q. That would be about \$1.50 on an average? A. Yes, for a journeyman.

Q. Are any of the men employed there men who are not first-class men on lower wages, who are there as helpers or anything of that kind? A. Yes.

Q. What would these men be receiving? A. Some of them are not men and some are young men; they are boys and get from \$4 to \$7 a week.

Q. Are there any boys there or apprentices or are these young men you speak of apprentices or are they working as journeymen? A. Some are and some are not—I do not think they are bound to any time and they only get so much raise a year or every six months; some of them were working for \$2 when they went there first—of course they are small boys.

Q. Is there any regular raise they get every year or six months, or is it according to their ability they are paid? A. I cannot be sure, but as far as I can say it is about 50 cents they get every six months.

Q. Do you always get your wages paid regularly? A. Yes; every fortnight, and we can get money in between times if we want it.

Q. Do you consider Saturday the best day for the working man to get paid? A. Well, I do not know about that; I think if it were Friday or Monday it would suit just as well.

Q. Why do you think Friday or Monday would be better? A. Of course, late on Saturday night a person might not get things as good as if they were to get their money on Friday night or on Monday.

Q. Do you belong to the Carpenters' Association? A. Yes.

Q. Are there any men in your shop beside union men? A. Not as a bench hand.

Q. Are there any working in the establishment? A. There are the machine hands.

Q. And no objection is taken to these men working there? A. Well, of late years the men have got the thing worked up so that they join, and I think all the machine hands will join the union—most of them have no objections.

Q. How long have you worked in this city? A. Going on for eight years.

Q. Do you know if the cost of living is the same as it was eight years ago—were you married eight years ago, or had you a house of your own? A. About seven years ago I had.

Q. Do you think the rate of living now higher or lower than then? A. It appears to me it is higher than it was then—there is a good deal of difference in it.

Q. What do you consider higher now than then, what articles of food or rent or clothes or anything of that kind is there which is higher now than then? A. Well, I think, meat is higher.

Q. Is that the only article you are aware of in your household that is higher? A. I think you have to pay more for milk and potatoes now than then, too.

Q. Your opinion is that it is higher to live now than it was seven years ago? A. My opinion is that it is.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do you know if the wages have increased in the proportion of the increased cost of living during the same period? A. No; they have not. It increased some six or seven years ago, but I don't think it has increased according to the cost of living.

Q. Can you tell us what increase there has been in your rent in the same period? A. I think it is about 10 or 12 per cent.

Q. Do you know anything as to the wages of the machine hands? A. Yes; they are generally from \$8 to \$10 a week in the shop where I am.

Q. In the shops where machinery is used, is there much dust flying around? A. There is a great deal.



Q. Have you a sand paperer there? A. Yes.

Q. Have they fans for carrying away the dust? A. Yes; attached to the machine.

Q. Are there any fans or tubes to carry away the dust from the other machines?

A. Not now but there was—no, not to carry away the dust from the other machines.

Q. Is there enough dust flying around the shop with the machinery in to be injurious to the men? A. Well, I do not know—I cannot really tell you, it does not seem to hurt me or any of our crowd.

Q. Can you tell us from your own knowledge of the shops here if they are comfortable enough to work in in the winter season? A. No.

Q. Are proper accommodations provided for the men in the shops in this city? A. No.

Q. Have you any general knowledge of the condition of the dwelling houses of the workingmen here? A. I think I have pretty well.

Q. Give us an idea of the general condition of the average house that workingmen live in—rents and their condition generally? A. Some are comfortable and some are not.

Q. What would be the average rent for a comfortable house? A. One with 5 or 6 rooms in it you would have to pay between \$140 and \$150 a year.

Q. Are these houses occupied in tenements? A. No; I mean a whole house.

Q. Are there any tenement houses in this city? Yes.

Q. Do you know anything of the condition of those tenement houses? A. I do of some of them.

Q. Are they generally good? A. Some of them ain't—well, of course there is some of them bad, but take the generality of them through, it ain't.

Q. Is there any inspector appointed by the corporation to look after the sanitary condition of these houses? A. I cannot say; I never saw one as I know.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Is there a law compelling each tenement house to enter a sewer if there is one passing the premises? A. I think there is, but I am not sure—so far as I can say, there is.

Q. Have most of the tenement houses got a sewer in them? A. Some have and some have not.

Q. Are water closets connected with the sewer? A. Most of them are not, some are.

Q. How many men would be employed in the shop you work in? A. About 24 or 25, that is men.

Q. And how many boys? A. There would be about thirty men and boys all together.

Q. Did I understand you rightly that it is five years that boys serve as apprentices? A. I cannot say the time they serve—they are not bound to time; they get so much a week at first, and if they do anything out of the way or anything turns up against them they are sacked.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are there many carpenters idle during the busy season? A. Mostly at all times; it is seldom but some are idle.

Q. Does immigration affect your trade? A. Certainly.

Q. Do many carpenters come into the city of Halifax and remain here? A. Some of these fellows away out in the country come in here and terribly affect us.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Is that what you mean by immigrants? A. Yes; there are no foreigners come in here to work.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. These men come into the city in the busy season and go out again home in the winter? A. Some come in during the building season, stay 4 or 5 months and go out home again.

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Q. Would you look upon these men who come in like that as competent men—thorough carpenters? A. No; I do not consider them carpenters, but all the same they come in place of a mechanic when they come here.

Q. Do they stand up for the same rate of wages as carpenters do? A. No; they go to work for almost nothing.

Q. Then when there are many unemployed carpenters do the bosses take advantage of that to lower wages? A. Well, I have not had any experience of working outside, but I always heard they do.

Q. If there were no idle men in the city do you think wages would go up? A. Well, I think they would—there is plenty of room for them to go up.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. About what are the usual city taxes for a mechanic here, for city and water purposes and like that? A. I have paid \$5 for water taxes and for city rates, poor and county rates, I have paid \$9.

Q. Do you pay any poll tax? A. No; I do not.

Q. You do not own your own house? A. No; I do not.

Q. Each tenant pays about that amount? A. It all depends upon the house he gets into and the rent he pays—some pay higher than that and some pay lower.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are the taxes chargeable according to rental? A. Yes; that is the way I have seen it, that is the way it worked with me; when I pay a high rent I have to pay so much per cent.

ARTHUR C. LESSEL, President Carpenters' Union, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How long have you been engaged as a carpenter? A. 30 years.

Q. Within these thirty years has the condition of carpenters improved or has it gone backwards? A. I think it has materially improved within the last few years.

Q. Are their wages anything better, according to your recollection of the times, say from 20 to 30 years ago? A. Yes; considerably better.

Q. About 20 or 25 years ago what were the regular wages of carpenters in this city? A. As near as I can recollect somewhere about \$1.25 or \$1.50 a day. \$1.50 was considered good wages 25 years ago.

Q. That was the general rule for competent hands was it? A. That was the best wages.

Q. What is to-day the best wages for competent hands? A. I think, as far as I am able to judge, \$1.75 a day, which are the best wages except exceptional cases, such as foremen and leading hands of that description.

Q. From your experience, as to the cost of living, has it in that time increased or decreased? A. I think in some instances it has slightly increased and in others it stands about the same way; for instance, house rent is considerably higher than it was 25 years ago.

Q. Any other items? A. I think house rent is about the worst thing we have to contend with here, and very poor accommodation for the amount of money we have to pay.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Are there no houses built for mechanics? A. No.

Q. None of late years? A. No; we have to catch on to whatever we can get—there is no special provision made for workmen's dwellings at all—it seems to have been left out of the calculation. Those who build think they have given a boom to mechanics, yet they put the rent so high that we cannot take them.



By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What is about the average rent of those houses you speak of—that is for each tenement? A. I am living in a house myself suitable for three tenants and I am paying \$100 a year; on the second floor is where I live—and the floor below me is bringing \$120, and the floor above \$80 a year.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. What would be the size of the whole house? A. 12 or 13 rooms.

Q. What would be the breadth and depth? A. 25 feet front and 32 or 33 deep.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Is there a back addition to it? A. No.

Q. How many rooms have you for \$100 a year? A. I have what you might call two fair rooms, about 14 feet square, two small bedrooms and one still smaller.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. You say that there are only 13 rooms in it altogether? A. Yes; I think that is all.

Q. What would such a house cost to build, that is land and all? A. The house is old at the present time, so I cannot say, but I think a house of that description would cost \$2,000 or something like that.

Q. And the land would cost what? A. I could hardly give a valuation for the land, as it is in a central part of the city, and if the house were pulled down now it would cost considerable money.

Q. Are there water closets in that building? A. No; nothing of that kind, only the ordinary latrine in the yard.

Q. You have to pay the taxes? A. No; the taxes are included in the rent.

Q. Do I understand that there is no income tax in this city? A. No.

Q. I mean do not mechanics have to pay a tax on their income? A. No; there is nothing of that kind here.

Q. The idea is, then, that a man rents a tenement to you and gives it for so much and he has to pay all the taxes? A. Yes; but I think there is some provision made now as to tenants paying their water tax.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have you anything else to add to the testimony of the other gentlemen? A. I was thinking when you were asking the questions as to apprenticeship, for that is one of the questions I have often turned my mind upon and have tried to evolve some scheme out of my mind whereby our trade might be bettered so far as skilled workmen are concerned, and I do not see any better way than the having of an indenture system, which, if properly carried out, would do so. We suffer here most terribly from unskilled labor, especially during the busy season; this unskilled labor has now crept in and destroyed the trade. There are skilled hands now in this town working 25 or 30 years, but according as they die out very few men are coming in to fill their places; I am now, of course, speaking of men able to take a specification and plan and carry it out themselves.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Have you any plan to devise by which this thing could be carried out? A. The only thing is for the Government to pass a law to that effect whereby you can have all apprentices indentured.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. In regard to the influx of labor from outside districts, have you any complaint? A. I did not refer to that particularly. Of course we have to contend against that during the summer season. At this time any quantity of unskilled labor comes into the town and usurps the place of mechanics. It is a well known fact that in our trade the most money is in the rough work, and if you get unskilled labor to do the rough work it is better for the employer.

Under a system like yours or the deed of indenture system, is not the employer compelled to teach the apprentice his trade properly? A. He is.

Q. And when he is taught that he is supposed to be a competent journeyman? A. Yes; if he has brains.

Q. If the master is not bound, as now, to teach the boy, is not that the reason why so many botches are now turned out? A. That is the reason. A boy if smart picks up a smattering of the business quickly, and he then thinks he knows the business, and he hires himself out as a journeyman; of course some parts of the work he can do, others he cannot do so well, and when he comes down to technical parts he cannot do anything at all, and that is the reason why there are so many unskilled men.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. If they were indentured would that be the case? A. I do not think so, because they would be compelled to keep them until properly trained.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. You told us that the condition of the carpenter improved during the last ten or fifteen years; can you attribute any cause for it? A. Yes; it is altogether owing to our labor organization, and in no other way.

Q. In what way? A. It has increased the wages—by persistent effort we have the wages up where they are at the present time, and I hope to have them higher before long.

Q. Can you give us any opinion as to the effect of shortening the hours of labor? A. For my own part I would as soon have the hours of labor shortened and the pay advanced.

Q. What benefit would that be? A. It would have a tendency to use up all the surplus labor, and then create a demand; our surplus labor here is not so great, and naturally wages would go up; of course that is only my theory, I would not say I am correct.

Q. You do not take into account this floating population that comes in and out? A. If we had our organization thoroughly at work we would not be afraid of them.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you think that the mechanic lives any better now than he did 10 years ago? A. I do not think so—I do not think there is much difference.

Q. Do you not think if the hours were shortened for mechanics that there would be more of a tendency towards drinking and other habits in the men? A. I do not think it, that is taking into consideration their habits at the present time—I do not think their bad habits would be in any way increased.

Q. What would be the benefits arising from shorter hours? A. There would be more time for recreation, and also for more amusement at home with their wives and families, and if any one of them owned the house in which he lived he could improve it, and it would be merely amusement for him more than anything else. Now we are kept at it from daylight to dark and have no rest at all.

Q. Do you think any of them would study? A. I hope there will be opportunity offered them to take advantage of this drawing school for one thing.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. If the hours of labor for farmers were reduced and they work eight hours, what effect would that have upon provisions? A. To that I am not in a position to give a direct answer.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Do you think they would be able to do as much in 8 hours as in 14 or 15? A. Yes; for the simple reason that it would take more help to do it, and therefore give much more employment.



By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. What are these men; are they working on farms, or what? A. There are some on farms and others do fishing, and they come around with an axe on their shoulder and offer to put on shingles and do other out-door work; then in winter they go back to their homes as they have saved enough during the summer to keep them, and they pay no taxes here. They save all the proceeds of their work and live on almost nothing.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Where do they come from principally? A. From a village called Chezzet-cook, on the eastern coast of the County of Halifax.

Q. Is there any other section of the country that you know that the people come from to this city to do that? A. I do not know any part so much as that. They do, of course, to some extent, not so much though as that particular section.

Q. Do you think that as a general rule they work so cheaply, that they are any advantage to the people who employ them? A. Not at all. I can tell from experience of parties that have had them, and they had to come and get skilled hands afterwards to do the work; that is a common thing.

Q. Do they hire them again afterwards? A. No; they get cured in a good many cases, but still some persist in having them after all, because they get them cheaper.

Q. You, as a practical man and one who understands your business in every particular, do you think these people are a benefit to the city as regards their cheap labor? A. I certainly do not; they do not improve its architecture, at all events.

Q. Is there any change that you could foreshadow? A. Well, I might say that there was some talk here about organizations of labor. I contend that the organization of labor is a benefit to the employer in every sense of the word. I think if the provisions of the labor organization alone were carried out and the constitution adhered to, the employers would find that they had the better workmen in their employ. It induces sobriety as one of its main provisions, and I have known instances of men who have been habitual drunkards who, by its means, have been reformed. That is one thing that is a gain to any community, for the reason that a man, who is found of intemperate habits, loses his benefits to himself and family if anything happens to him. We are indeed very particular as to the men we take in. We desire to take none but skilled workmen, but in a community like this we cannot get all skilled men, yet we do the best we can.

Q. What provision is there in the constitution or by-laws as to the rate of wages to be paid to men not first-class men? A. We are not supposed to take in any man who is not capable of earning the average wages. The average rate here is a small one, and there are very few employers who refuse to pay it; I think every one in the organization is earning average pay.

Q. You only take in first-class men? A. No; we have to take others besides first-class men. We have no regular standard rate what may be termed high—we have a low standard.

By Mr. HEAKES —

Q. Is there any place where an apprentice can learn the technical part of his trade, such as free hand and mechanical drawing? A. I am happy to say there is; I think it is free, but I do not know its provisions.

Q. Do you know if boys take advantage of it? A. I am happy to say that they do, and it is of large advantage to them, but at present the accommodations are very small; that was something that I was very glad to see established.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Were you indentured at the business? A. Not the regular form of indenture, but there was an agreement—it was not by deed of indenture, but I have known several who served their time that way.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. And the farmers would have to get more help? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you not think the hours should be shortened on the farm on account of the amount of machinery now used in agriculture? A. Yes; I do, just as much as for the mechanics in the city.

Q. Do you not think that a man of an evening when he is tired out is more liable to get drunk than he otherwise would be? A. I am certainly of that opinion.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do you think a man of temperate habits would not keep sober under any circumstances? A. I consider that a man who has never been in the habit of drinking at all would have more temptations offered to him then than now.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. If the eight hour system were introduced all over the place would it, do you think, make any difference in the most of the commodities of life? A. That is something I could not answer off hand—it seems possible in the first instance that it might give things a set back, but they would soon come back into their natural channels. I do not see why at one time 12 hours a day was considered a day's work. It is quite a common thing for people in this country to work from the time they could see till it was dark, and now I notice that people generally work, even on farms, 10 hours, except it may be in harvest time, when advantage must be taken of the long days.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. If a man works ten hours a day in Halifax, and goes home and dresses himself and has his supper, what time has he to take out his wife and family for enjoyment, and then get back home, go to bed and give his boss an honest day's work next day? A. Not much time. It depends upon the distance he has to go to get home from his work; and when a man gets home he has but a very short time here even in summer; and then again the summer season is very short here when the evenings are long.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do you think the Halifax men have deteriorated this last thirty years? Do you think they are physically as good as they were thirty years ago? A. I can scarcely say now. It seems to me that they are about as good men now as there was then. Just the same; there is very little difference.

ALBERT TANNER, tailors' cutter, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How long have you been in your present position? A. About two years.

Q. What is your pay as a cutter? A. It depends on how I work, as I work by the piece.

Q. Are you the principal cutter in the establishment, or is there more than one? A. We have more than one cutter. We have no principal cutter.

Q. What wages do you receive on an average as a cutter? A. I cannot give a correct average. I can name a figure, and should say about \$13 a week.

Q. Are there any cutters besides yourself there? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any idea of what their wages are? A. They would know best themselves.

Q. Do you work upon the same flat as the former witness? A. No.

Q. Down lower? A. Yes.

Q. Is your room ventilated well in every particular? A. Splendidly ventilated.



Q. Have you water closets on your flat? A. No.

Q. Where are the water closets that you have to visit? A. Upstairs; the ones before named.

Q. Those are the only closets in the house? A. Yes.

Q. For all the hands down stairs? A. Downstairs in the bank there are closets, but they alone have access to them.

Q. Do you consider your position healthy—no complaints with regard to the ventilation, or anything of that kind? A. I do not see that any complaint could be justly made as to ventilation or anything like that—high ceilings in the rooms, and they are splendid rooms.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you get your wages weekly? A. No; we are paid fortnightly.

Q. You say that you work piece work? A. Yes.

Q. Are all the other gentlemen working piece work? A. Yes.

Q. And is the price about the same? A. We are all paid the same.

Q. I suppose you generally work as hard as you possibly can? A. Yes; if they are well. It depends a little upon what is on their mind. Their wages would be much about the same.

Q. Do you live in a tenement house or do you board? A. I board.

Q. What is the usual price of board per week here? A. I live at home.

Q. If you had to pay for board outside about the same as you get at home, what would it cost you? A. I could not expect to get it less than four or five dollars a week.

Q. You do not pay any taxes, I presume? A. No.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. Nine.

Q. What days in the week? A. We have Saturday afternoons off.

Q. Do you prefer taking Saturday afternoon off to working and getting paid for it? A. Certainly we do.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Is there any labor organization among the tailors in Halifax? A. Not that I know of; I am glad there is not.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Why is that; do you think every man should be paid according to the work he performs? A. Yes; according to his ability and his work. I think it is the part of the employer to regulate prices.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you not think that the workman has a right to say how much he will sell his labor for? A. Certainly he has the right to give his opinions, but not to enforce his views.

Q. Do you not think that if there was an organization, that that organization would be the best judges of price? A. In some cases it is and in some cases it is not.

Q. Was there ever an organization of tailors in Halifax? A. Not that I know of.

Q. Did you ever work outside of Halifax? A. No.

Q. As regards the benefits of an organization in relation to prices generally, you do not know whether it would be so or not? A. I only give my opinions as to what I read in the papers about labor societies in connection with tailors' establishments in the United States.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Did you ever know of any person not paid proportionately to their worth? A. I hardly understand that question.

Q. I mean as to their ability? A. Well, you see my experience has been very small indeed.

Q. You have had some years' experience, I presume? A. A few; I am quite young yet. I think every one should be paid according to their ability. I think they are.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you think you get sufficient wages for your work? A. I do not complain. I think it is very good; certainly I would take more.

Q. Then you are not satisfied? A. Perfectly satisfied; I would not think of asking for more, but I would take it if it were offered to me.

Q. Do employers often give more wages without being asked? A. No; they are not inclined that way.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you think you are paid proportionately with the price of the goods as they are sold? A. I do not know how they are sold, so I cannot answer; I do not know the selling price.

Q. Judging from your general knowledge and experience in the shop you would know the prices at which these goods would be sold, then I ask you: do you think you are paid a fair proportional part of that price for your labor? A. I do not know, this is outside of my province, as it were.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are there any women working there? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know their wages? A. I believe they may be so and so, but I cannot say.

Q. Do you know if any of the women earn more than \$3? A. There may be.

Q. Can you express your opinion on that subject as well as you did just now on the other questions or not? A. I could, but my opinion would not be worth anything.

Q. Then, if it is not any good now was it of much more value formerly? A. I do not know it would be any good formerly.

Q. Is there any woman there earning \$4 a week? A. I cannot answer anything to such questions at all outside of my own work, for I do not know their prices.

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FREDERICK MURPHY, Tailors' pressman, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. You have heard the testimony of Joseph Tanner—does your opinion coincide with his, or have you anything to add to his testimony? A. I agree with it entirely and have nothing to add.

Q. Do you think that it would be better if these water-closets, both for males and females, were separated in a better degree than they are at present? A. I could not answer that.

Q. With regard to your wages and hours of work and everything connected with it, are they the same as the former witness? A. Yes.

Q. You work by the piece? A. Yes.

Q. What would be the fair average wages? A. About \$10 a week.

Q. Do you get constant employment all the year around? A. Yes.

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ALEXANDER NORTHUP, carpenter, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you belong to the Joiners' Association? A. I do.

Q. How long have you been employed as a carpenter and joiner? A. About 30 years.



Q. When you began 30 years ago what was the general wages of carpenters then? A. We were paid at that time at the rate of about \$1.25 a day.

Q. What is the rate of wages at the present time, that first-class men receive? A. Do you mean the average rate?

Q. The wages you are paid—the average rate of a first-class man? A. The average wages paid at the present time is from \$1.45 to \$1.50 a day.

Q. Would it be a fair question to ask what wages you are paid yourself at the present time? A. I am paid \$1.75 a day.

Q. Are there any men in the concern paid that wages besides yourself? A. Yes; several.

Q. Take that concern, what is the average wages for a first-class man? A. All the first-class men are paid the same rate.

Q. Is there any class of men receiving smaller wages? A. There is a class of men come here in the spring and they grab what they can get, perhaps \$1 and perhaps \$1.25 a day—I can hardly answer your question.

Q. Do these men go away in the fall of the year again? A. Yes; they do invariably.

Q. Are these men considered to be injurious to the trade of the city? A. Yes; they are to a great extent—they are largely injurious to us.

Q. From your experience as to the cost of living now, is it any higher now than it was, say 10 years ago? A. It is.

Q. Is your rent dearer? A. It is.

Q. Do you occupy a house of your own? A. I do not.

Q. You are not assessed then except poll tax? A. I am assessed, not directly, but I am, indirectly, in my rent.

Q. Is it a fair question to ask you what rent you pay? A. Yes; I pay \$33.75 a quarter.

Q. What taxes do you pay upon that amount? A. As near as I can judge \$4 water rates; and I really cannot answer to what capitalists will do with the working-men by-and-bye for I can't get at it.

Q. With regard to the general average of working days during the year, how many days will a man work in a year according to your estimate? A. I have never taken that into consideration. The way I am employed is a special arrangement with my employer and therefore I have never considered the rate of clear days a man will work in a season; but to the best of my knowledge he will make six months in the course of a year clear days' work.

Q. Do you consider the condition of the workingmen now or 10 years ago—whether they are paid better or worse? A. I consider them worse.

Q. At what particular time are you paid? A. We are paid fortnightly, on Friday evening.

Q. Are any of your wages kept back? A. Only the day we are paid on—Friday. We are agreeable to that because it gives the clerks a chance to make up their books and get the draft.

Q. Do you think Friday preferable to any other day for payment? A. I do.

Q. Please state why you think it so? A. It is an advantage to the working-men's wives. The Commissioners all know that it is impossible for a workman to go to market on Saturday night and get things right, for that is all got by the people who have money on hand on Saturday mornings before they get there, and if they get their money on Friday night they can go to market and get their things just the same as the man with a million.

Q. Have you many apprentices in your shop? A. We have.

Q. Are they indentured? A. I believe none are indentured in the carpentry business in the city of Halifax.

Q. Do you think it would be better to have them as apprentices indentured than under the present system? A. Yes; I do, if they do not come across a party who will abuse them after they are indentured. It is pretty hard to give an opinion, however, on that subject.

Q. Do you think it would be calculated to make better workmen if boys were bound for a certain number of years? A. Yes; under the circumstances I mentioned it would be. I believe that the indenture system is a good one if the boys were treated in a humane manner.

Q. Do you think it would be calculated to make better tradesmen than under the present system? A. I do.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Is the society you belong to a local one, or is it a branch of a large society? A. It is a branch of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

Q. Explain to us the benevolent features of that institution? A. There is a benefit accruing from this institution, providing a member does not allow himself to be in arrears for three months, of \$300 in case of accident, that is falling from a staging or anything appertaining to his trade—a benefit of \$50 in case of his wife's death and a benefit of \$200 to his widow in case of his death.

Q. What amount would it cost a man to insure himself for all these benefits? What proportion of the amount that you pay in does it cost for that feature? A. There was an insurance agent in our shop yesterday and he offered to insure me against accidents for \$10 a year.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. For what amount? A. For a benefit I think of 23 or 25 weeks at \$3.00 a week.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. How much does it cost each member of your society? A. Thirty cents.

Q. You pay 30 cents into the insurance fund? A. No; into the Union.

Q. In what proportion is the 30 cents you pay in allotted to this fund for benefits? A. Ten cents a month.

Q. Does that cover in the entire cost? A. That covers the whole thing.

Q. Have you found this society of which you are a member a benefit to you in trade matters? A. Yes.

Q. How long have you been connected with this labor organization? A. In the city of Halifax?

Q. Yes? A. In 1864 we had a Trades Union here and it seems to have gone through. I think they ran four or five years; since then we were without a labor organization, that is from 1868 to 1885, and then we entered into the Brotherhood of the Carpenters and Joiners of America.

Q. Do you find that labor organization has any features in it antagonistic to the employers? A. Not at all.

Q. Have you ever given the question sufficient thought to know whether they are to the employer's interests or not? A. Yes; they are to the employer's interests.

Q. That is if the constitution is properly carried out? A. Yes.

Q. Is there anything in your by-laws prohibiting union men from working with non-union men? A. Yes.

Q. What is it, please? A. It is this, that members belonging to the union will not work with non-union men.

Q. Is that local? A. Yes.

Q. I am now speaking of the general laws of the brotherhood? A. Yes; I think it is, I am not positive.

Q. Have you a copy of the constitution? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever had any general strikes among the carpenters in Halifax? A. No; not for some years.

Q. Always get along pretty well with your employers? A. Yes.

Q. What has been the increase of wages during the last 10 years? A. 25 or 30 cents a day.

Q. Has the increased cost of living been more than that do you think—that is including house rent, &c.? A. I think it is on about a par to the best of my judgment.



Q. Taking into consideration the improvements in machinery and the greater quantity work done by this machinery that joiners formerly did, do you think that the men have received a fair share of the profits? A. No; not by a long odds.

Q. In proportion to the amount of money that a carpenter has to pay for his tools, how much is he underpaid in comparison with the bricklaying trade? A. He is about half. I consider a carpenter ought to have more wages or as much at least as a bricklayer.

Q. Can a bricklayer in the City of Halifax work more time than six months in the year? A. I do not think; it is pretty hard to judge the season, but I do not think he can.

Q. You think that is the average of them and of the carpenters? A. Yes; on outside work.

Q. Have you any idea how many days in a year, if a carpenter worked every day he could work, that he would make taking into consideration the short time in winter? A. No; I have not figured that down so finely.

Q. Can you tell us what the general condition of the shops in Halifax is—that is their sanitary condition and as to their comfort? A. Some of them are very poorly provided. I know—but I will speak for the shop where I am and we are provided well for in that respect—we have steam pipes or heaters running through it which is supplied from our engine.

Q. Do you know if it is the practice in Halifax to place an inferior man on the bench with a practical man? A. Yes; in every instance.

Q. Is it ever known to happen that the first-class man is discharged and the inferior man kept on in winter? A. Yes; I have seen it.

Q. Are you sufficiently acquainted with the opinions of the men here on the question of arbitration? A. The carpenters of Halifax invariably go in for arbitration before they would strike.

Q. Do you know if it is one of the rules of your society to insist upon every means to provide arbitration before a strike takes place? A. Yes; it is.

Q. And to guard against such as much as possible? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know if the men in the organization you belong to would consider it a benefit to have a bureau of statistics established, and do you think they would benefit from it? A. Yes; I am certain they would.

Q. Would they favor the establishment of such a bureau? A. They would.

Q. What protection, in the Province of Nova Scotia, has the mechanic for his wages, in case of the insolvency of his employer? A. None whatever.

Q. Are there no laws to protect him for any amount? A. No; not that I am aware of.

Q. Can you tell us what proportion, if any, of the wages of the mechanic are liable to seizure for debt? A. I cannot say.

Q. Do you know anything about the garnishee law? A. No; I do not.

Q. Do you know if there is any inspection of workingmen's dwellings, in Halifax, by the corporation? A. None. I know none ever inspected mine.

Q. Have you any knowledge of the condition of workingmen's houses here? A. No; I have not been in many of them.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Do you know if there are many of the carpenters here who own their own houses? A. Some few have the name, but I do not know whether they do or not.

Q. Are carpenters here generally sober and industrious? A. I think they are, or else they would be very poorly off.

Q. How comes it then that more do not own their own houses? A. Their wages are low and that is what stops them.

Q. Do you think shortening the hours of labor would be any advantage? A. It would be the cause of increasing their wages, and the hours of laborers are too long. The trouble is there is too much production here.

Q. Can you suggest anything that would benefit them? A. I have no suggestion to make to-night.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Is there a free public library here? A. Yes.

Q. Can you tell us if it is patronized much by the working classes? A. I cannot.

Q. From your knowledge of the working classes, do you think it would be patronized if they had shorter hours of labor, say on Saturday afternoon? A. I have no doubt it would.

Q. What is the difference between carpenters' wages in Halifax and St. John? A. I cannot answer that question, because I do not know what their wages are there.

Q. Has fuel, such as wood and coal, increased in price during the past five years in Halifax? A. It has.

Q. Which, the coal or the wood, or both? A. Both.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. You say the cost of living has increased; do you think that the cost of the necessities of life has increased, or do you think that people have tastes they did not formerly have, say ten or fifteen years ago? A. The people don't enjoy as much luxury now as they did then.

WILLIAM GIBB, carpenter, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. How long have you been in the carpentry business? A. Twenty years.

Q. You served your time in the same establishment as you are now in? A. No.

Q. You have heard the testimony of Mr. Northup; do you corroborate it, or is there anything you wish to give the Commission? A. It is pretty near the same. There is not much difference.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What wages do you receive? A. \$1.75.

Q. Is that the general run in the shop? A. I cannot say.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Do you know any reason why carpenters in Halifax are or should be any poorer than those in St. John and receive the same wages? A. I do not know; I have never been in St. John.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. What rent do you pay? A. I do not pay rent. I am my own landlord.

Q. You own your own house? A. Yes.

Q. You made the money I suppose by hard work in the employ you are now? A. Yes.

Q. Do you own your house outright? A. Well, I own it that far that I am not afraid of the sheriff.

Q. What valuation is on your property? A. About \$14.02 a year.

Q. The valuation is on \$1,000? A. Yes.

Q. That is inclusive of water rates? A. No.

Q. What do you pay for water rates? A. \$4.

Q. Is there anything additional for tenants? A. I have no tenants.

Q. If you had one would you have to pay extra? A. I could not answer that question.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Do you know what the price of flour was ten years ago? A. I think it was about the same price as now.

Q. And coal—do you think there is any difference now and ten years ago? A. I think coal is a little higher.



By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you find much difference in the cost of living between now and ten years ago? A. I do.

Q. It costs you less, I presume? A. It costs me more because the family is larger.

Q. I suppose per head would not cost you any more? A. I could not answer that question correctly.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Have you any new information to give the Commission? A. No; nothing new.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have the number of houses increased where you lived of late? A. Yes.

Q. Generally are they increasing? A. Yes; they have been these last few years.

Q. How as to the suburbs; are they increasing there? A. I could not say.

JOSEPH TANNER, tailor's pressman, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. Nine.

Q. Is that the usual hours the year round? A. Yes.

Q. Are you constantly employed? A. Every day in the year except Saturday, when we only work half a day.

Q. Is that half day kept back from your wages or are you paid the same rate for Saturday as other days? A. It is kept back, we are paid for five days and a half.

Q. What do you get per day? A. That is according to what we make.

Q. Is it by the piece you work? A. Yes.

Q. Tell us about what your average wages is per day according to what you get for five days and a half? A. My average would be about \$9.25.

Q. Do you say you are constantly employed at that? A. Yes.

Q. How long have you been a pressman? A. 2 years and 9 months.

Q. Worked in the same shop all the time? A. Yes.

Q. Are you paid your wages regularly? A. Yes; every fortnight.

Q. On what day? A. Saturday.

Q. What time on Saturday? A. At one o'clock.

Q. Is your business laborious; are you subjected to great heat from the fires of the pressing irons; are you obliged to be over the furnace while they are heating? A. No.

Q. Is the shop well ventilated? A. Yes.

Q. Sufficiently to take away the heat? A. Yes.

Q. You have no complaint to make then with regard to your shop or your master or anything of that kind? A. No.

Q. Is there good ventilation otherwise in your place—are you upstairs? A. Yes.

Q. How many stories are you up? A. Two.

Q. Have you any fire escapes to that place? A. No.

Q. How many hands are there working up there in that place? A. About forty or fifty.

Q. On that one flat? A. Yes.

Q. Supposing any fire or panic occurred there what kind of egress or stairway have you for coming out of it? A. There is a very good stairway there.

Q. Do you come down through the house or outside of it? A. It leads outside of the house.

Q. Do you know whether the doors open outwards or inwards going to the stairs? A. Outwards.

Q. Are there any women working in that establishment? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know if the water closets and conveniences are decently separated in that place? A. Yes.

Q. How are they separated? Are they on the one floor? A. Yes.

Q. Are they separated with a partition? A. Yes.

Q. Is that the only thing that divides them; are they both together? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Is there a screen between the doors; can the parties entering be seen from the room? A. It is separate from the workroom.

Q. Are the doors side by side in these closets? A. Yes.

HALIFAX, 5th April, 1898.

JOHN L. BARRY, Chief City Assessor, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Mr. Barry, will you tell us now about the system of assessment in the city of Halifax? A. There are three principal assessors permanently appointed. They go through the city and exercise their judgment as to the value of the real and personal property of citizens, and give notice to the owner of their decision, from which he has an appeal within 14 days. If he does not appeal within the 14 days, he is assumed to assent to that amount. The rate is levied alike on all real and personal property throughout the city.

Q. What is the rate? A. This year it is \$1.33 per hundred; last year it was \$1.17 per hundred.

Q. Can you give us any reason for the difference in the rates this year and last? A. Well, the principal discrepancy will be found in a number of unexpended sums that fell into the treasury. In addition to that there was also an additional amount required to pay interest on borrowed money, and expenses for sewerage and so on, that increased the rate.

Q. What do the rates include? A. The rates are city, poor, county and school rates. The city rate embraces the police, gas, sewerage, and interest; the county rate is entirely different and the school rate is different.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. What is the county rate for? A. It is to supply the gentlemen who control this building (the county court house) and to pay something for the support of poor persons and things of that kind.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Does the school rate embrace anything outside the city? A. No; the people pay their school taxes where they reside. Persons living in the city are assessed for the county, and the assessment for the county poor is paid in the city.

Q. Does the rate include water taxes as well? A. No; that is entirely different.

Q. Does it include the sewer tax? A. It does.

Q. Is there an entrance fee charged for sewers? A. No, it is not. It is paid in the general interest of the city.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are incomes assessed? A. No; there is no income tax.

Q. Does personal property include domestic furniture? A. The personal property includes everything that is movable, from the clothes on one's back to a steam engine.

Q. Are there any exemptions? A. None whatever, except they are exempt by law, such as schools, churches, &c.

Q. Are charitable institutions exempt? A. Hardly, but they do escape.



Q. The poor man is taxed on his furniture as well as the rich man? A. We assess all above the value of \$200; all below that is free.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Are many mechanics in the city assessed on their furniture—those that are not actually owners of property? A. Yes; if we can make \$200 worth. It is very rare of course to find \$200 worth among that class of people.

Q. Do you include the mechanics' furniture and tools in the \$200? A. Yes; they would be included.

Q. What appeal is there outside the assessors, if an appeal is taken from the assessors to the court and no reduction is made? A. None.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. It does not depend on the assessors whether a man has the right to appeal? A. No; he has the right to appeal independent of them.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. It is stated on the notice that the person assessed has the right to repeal within 14 days? A. Yes.

Q. What about the water tax? A. In reference to the water tax the assessors are called upon to furnish the value of real estate assessed to the Board of Works, who strike the water rate. The Board of Works are a committee of the City Council. There are two rates for water. There is one of 18 cents for a fire rate; and one of 22 cents for a domestic rate, making 40 cents per hundred on the dwelling. No dwelling house can be assessed for more than \$5,000 for domestic purpose.

Q. Do you have any special rate on a shop that may be in a building? A. The fire rate for a shop or store is 18 cents, no matter what the value is.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Have you any book that would tell us all this? A. We have some papers that would give the information.

Q. How is the court to which appeals are taken constituted? A. The Provincial Government appoint one member, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court another, and the City Council the third. The member appointed by the City Council is the Recorder of the city.

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W. W. HOWELL, machinist, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Will you tell us your profession or business? A. I am a machinist.

Q. How long have you been engaged in that particular work? A. I suppose for 32 years.

Q. As an average how many men do you employ—not what you have now or at any particular time, but the average? A. I suppose about 12 hands.

Q. Are these all journeymen or skilled mechanics? A. Some of them are skilled mechanics and some of them are laborers.

Q. How many skilled mechanics would you have? A. I should suppose about eight.

Q. Would you tell us the average wages you pay to those skilled mechanics? A. I think about \$10 a week.

Q. How many hours a day do they work? A. Ten hours.

Q. At what time do you pay them? A. I pay them generally on Saturday.

Q. Do you pay them once a week? A. Yes.

Q. Have you had any labor troubles or anything of that kind with your men? A. No.

Q. What do you pay the men you employ as laborers? A. About \$1.25 a day. Sometimes I pay \$1.50.

Q. As a rule do you find the men you employ good men—that is industrious, fairly sober and intelligent? A. Yes; they are sober men and fairly good men.

Q. Have you any system of fining men for doing anything wrong or for loss of time? A. No; none.

Q. The shop they work in, is it comfortable, well ventilated and does it afford them good shelter? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. How many hours constitute a day's work? A. Ten hours.

Q. Every day of the week? A. Yes; every day.

Q. Are your men employed throughout the year constantly? A. No; not constantly.

Q. How many months do they work constantly? A. We have the shop running all the year round, but we have not the same number of men on all the time.

Q. The men have sometimes to work overtime? A. Yes.

Q. Are they paid extra for that? A. Yes.

Q. How are they paid; at the day rate? A. They are paid two days for the night, if they work at night.

Q. Have you many apprentices? A. I have one.

Q. Do you indenture them? No; but sometimes we have written agreements.

Q. Is that the best way, do you think? A. I do not think it makes any difference. If they want to go away they go.

Q. They cannot go if the parents are joined with them in the agreement? A. No.

Q. Do they usually remain when they are through the period of their apprenticeship? A. No; sometimes they go away when they have only been two or three years at the trade.

Q. Where do they go to? A. To the United States.

Q. Do they generally go there? A. Yes.

Q. What is the sanitary condition of your shop? A. It is in good condition. It is a nice, healthy place to work in, with plenty of fresh air.

Q. Is it supplied with water closets? A. No; there are none in the shop. But we are close by the water and we go on to the wharf.

Q. Have you worked at your business in any place outside of Halifax? A. Very little.

Q. Have wages increased with men in your business during the past five or ten years? A. No; the wages I think have decreased a little.

Q. What are the wages in your business in Halifax in proportion to those paid in St. John? A. I think we pay about the same.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. If the parents were bound with their children what recourse would you have against the parents if the children left? A. I suppose we could make them pay whatever amount was fixed by the bond.

Q. Are the persons who apprentice their children worth as much as \$200? A. I think, as a general thing, it would not be worth while to try to collect it.

Q. If a child deserted after being apprenticed, then you would sue the parents? A. Well, if they had anything you could do so.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Have you any particular objection to employing the trades unions? A. No.

Q. Are any of your men members of trades unions? A. I do not know.

Q. You never made the enquiry, I suppose? A. No; I never had any trouble in that way.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Were you apprenticed to the business? A. No.

Q. Did you serve your time in the old country? A. No; I served my time in Halifax.



WILLIAM MOIR, of W. & A. Moir, machinists, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. I believe you are engaged in the profession of an engineer? A. Yes, sir.

Q. You do all kinds of machine work? A. Yes.

Q. How long has your firm been engaged in that business? A. We have been engaged in the business for about 27 years.

Q. Do you find any difference in the trade now and when you recollect first? Has your trade increased or is it more profitable? Is there more work or has it improved, or is the contrary the case? A. Well, there is much more repairing work doing now, but we have not as much new work.

Q. Can you give the reason for the change? A. We have not field enough for making specialties as they have in Ontario, and they can beat us in the price. We have much more repairing work, though, than we had formerly.

Q. Why is that? A. We have more work for mills, mines and for steamers that come in, and so on.

Q. You find nearly as much as you can do in that way? A. Yes.

Q. How many men on an average do you employ? A. About 15.

Q. What proportion of those would be skilled men? A. Nearly all of them.

Q. Have you any boys as apprentices? A. Yes; we have three.

Q. Are they supposed to be apprentices? A. Yes.

Q. You feel interested enough in them to show them their business? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any one working with you now who has been an apprentice with you and has remained? A. We have one.

Q. The men that work with you, have they been in your employ for any length of time? A. Some of them have been with us nearly 20 years.

Q. What wages do you pay your men generally? A. Generally \$1.75 a day.

Q. What proportion do you usually pay your boys? A. They commence at \$1.50 a week and get a rise of \$1 a year.

Q. That is \$1 a week? A. Yes. Of course it depends something on the boy. If he gets to be a good lump of a fellow and is apt he gets on quicker.

Q. Do you find that they adapt themselves to your trade quickly? A. Yes.

Q. As a rule do you find the class of men you hire intelligent, sober men? A. We do.

Q. They compare favorably with men of the same class anywhere else? A. Yes. I have worked in the United States, and I found that our men compare favorably with any other.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. How many hours constitute a day's work with you? A. Ten hours.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What days do you pay your hands? A. Every Saturday.

JAMES DEMPSTER (of Dempster & Co.) sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. I believe you are proprietor of a planing mill? A. Yes.

Q. You are a large employer of labor in your factory, are you not? A. Not very large.

Q. Will you tell us about, on an average, what number of hands you employ? A. We have between 40 and 50 hands on an average.

Q. How many of these men are skilled mechanics in their different departments? A. I suppose about 75 per cent. of them; each one may have skill for the work he is doing.

Q. You have considerable machinery in your place? A. Yes.

Q. How many men are practised in the management of the machines, or do all the men take a hand at it? A. No; about 13 or 14 hands work on the machines.

Q. And they are fully capable of attending them? A. Yes.

Q. How many hands have you as joiners and finishers? A. We have 20 sometimes.

Q. And the other men are able to do what work? A. They do different sorts of work. Some of them run a circular saw. Some of them get in stock and put it into the drying room or get it out and lower it down, and so on.

Q. In paying your men how would you class them? A. We have two rates for bench hands, \$1.60 a day, or 16 to 17 cents an hour. Machine hands get \$10.50 and \$11 a week.

Q. What rate have you below that for the help you employ? A. We have a number of young fellows that we give \$6 a week to. They have been with us for some years.

Q. Have you them as apprentices? A. No; we take them to clear up first, and if they show any tact we put them on machines as they become competent to take charge, and work them in.

Q. Have you had any accidents in your factory? A. There was a young chap, some 15 years ago, that cut his thumb off. That is the only accident we have had.

Q. Was that through carelessness on his part or was it due to any fault of the machinery? A. It was not due to any fault of the machinery.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Is the machinery sufficiently protected now? A. I think the fact that we have no accidents shows that it is.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Are your men, as a rule, intelligent, and do they compare favorably with any similar men that you have had experience of? A. Yes.

Q. You have been employed elsewhere than here? A. Yes; I served my time in St. John, N.B.

Q. And you consider your men fairly intelligent, sober and good men. A. Yes.

Q. Have you had any labor difficulties with your men? A. No.

Q. Have you any objection to having men that belong to workmen's associations working in your place? A. No; none whatever.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Did you tell us the wages paid your machine hands? A. The best of them get \$10.50 and \$11 a week. Those are the best.

Q. What do the others get? A. The others get \$8 and \$9.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do the hands who work for you own the houses in which they live? A. Some of them do.

Q. Do you know if any of them that don't own houses have money invested in other ways? A. I can't say.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. The men that own houses, have they purchased them from their own savings? A. Yes. Of course they don't own them clear. Some of them are in the quidding societies and paying for them as they get along.

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NORMAN HAYES, barrel manufacturer, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What do you manufacture? A. Boxes, fish tubs and barrels for the sugar refinery.



Q. I presume that this establishment which you run is the largest of its kind in the Provinces? A. It is, I believe, the largest in this Province.

Q. On an average how many hands do you employ? A. Altogether, including those sent into the woods in the winter, we employ from 46 to 50 hands.

Q. Can you tell us the proportions of those to whom you pay a certain rate of wages? A. We have about 20 coopers engaged in barrel making, who ordinarily make from \$1.20 to \$1.70 a day on an average.

Q. What hours do these work? A. From 8 to 9 hours a day; they work when they please as they are on piece work.

Q. And those who make the boxes? A. We do not make boxes now in the number we did formerly, but they are paid, the others by the month, about from \$12 to \$20 and are found.

Q. Have you any other class of men besides these two classes? A. There are some working at the mill attending to the saws and other machinery.

Q. Are their wages different? A. No; we just hire them and train them up ourselves; they have been with us 25 years some of them.

Q. You employ a good deal of machinery? A. Yes; machines for sawing and cutting the staves, machines for cutting heads and for planing.

Q. Have you had any accidents in your mills? A. There was one man killed in the mill about 7 years ago; several men have had their hands taken off.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Since when? A. About nine years ago my brother lost three fingers off one hand.

Q. Has there been any accident since seven years? A. No; before that there was some.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. You are employed entirely in supplying the trade of this city? A. Yes.

Q. You do not go outside for a market for any of your products? A. No.

Q. Do you find any difficulty in getting suitable men? A. No trouble at all.

Q. As a general rule what hours do the rest of the men work? A. We try to get ten hours a day out of them.

Q. You send men into the woods do you? A. Yes; in winter, and they are paid the same as the others and get their board.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. The men employed in making shooks of whom you spoke, do they go into the woods to work? A. Yes; some of them do; if they are good axemen we will send them in.

Q. When they work in the city do you board them? A. We have none working in the city except the coopers and we pay them so much a barrel and they board themselves. One of the mills is at Pokok and the other up the line.

Q. Are any of these men you employ married men? A. Yes; more than half of them.

Q. Are their families living in the city? A. Some do; some of the men live at St. Margaret's Bay, and they go home every month or so.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do you board your box makers? A. Yes.

Q. And that \$12 or \$20 a month you pay them is an addition to their board? A. Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Where is your cooperage? A. Opposite to the Nova Scotia Sugar Refinery.

Q. What do you make the staves with? A. We do not make all we use and we have to send to Ontario for them.

Q. Have you the wood here to manufacture them from? A. We have, but we have no facilities for manufacturing them. We use a great quantity; last year we made about two-fifths of what we used.

Q. What wood do you use? A. We cut them out of birch and beech, and in Ontario they cut them out of elm.

Q. You import your elm staves? A. Yes; we import elm staves already manufactured.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you think that elm makes the better stave—I mean better than birch or beech? A. Birch is the best for staves; it is easier worked and requires less steaming.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Where do you get your staves from? A. We import them from Ontario.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Is your birch better here than it is in Ontario? A. I have been to Ontario and have seen nothing but elm principally.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Are the hoops elm? A. They make the best hoops out of elm.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you not use black ash? A. No.

Q. Do you make any of your own hoops? A. I have a machine to do so, but find that I can import them cheaper from Ontario than what I can manufacture them here.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Where do you get your hoops chiefly? A. Willisburg, Ontario.

Q. How many barrels do you manufacture in a year on an average for the sugar refinery? A. Last year we put out 130,000 barrels, about 20,000 nail kegs, and 12,000 fish drums.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. What are these barrels worth? A. I would not like to answer that question, it might prejudice my business.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you do any tight work? A. No; all slack work.

Q. Do you do any apple barrels? Q. Yes; but that too is slack work.

Q. What time do your coopers commence work in the morning? A. Generally about 7 or 7.30 in the morning, or eight; we are not particular as to that so long as they make all the barrels I require every day; if I had a large quantity to make then they might hurry, but we do not as a rule hurry them.

Q. How many barrels can a first-class hand make in a day of ten hours? A. I have coopers who make from 40 to 50 every day, and some again will not make that many.

Q. In the box making do you use a nailing machine? A. No.

Q. What else do you manufacture there? A. We prepare the staves for the lobster shoeks and boxes. We used to do a large business in them, but it is coming down now.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What is the reason for it coming down; is it because so many lobsters are not caught now? A. The reason for box making coming down with us is that so many went at it that it ran prices down too low; there was too much competition.



By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is it compulsory on the box makers living in the city that you should board them? A. We have no boxmakers working in the city. There were no coopers or men working in the city boarded by us.

A. B. BLIGH (Shipping Master, Port of Halifax) sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Give us a description of the nature of your work in the shipping office? A. It is to make out an agreement on printed forms between the captain and sailors, according to what they may agree between them, and also agreements between captains and mates, as they may agree.

Q. Have you anything to do in relation to the boarding masters or places in which sailors board? A. No; I often have to go to boarding houses though to look after men.

Q. As a general rule, so far as you know, are the boarding houses in Halifax always in the interests of the sailors to live in? A. Well, I do not think so. There is always too much rum in a good many for the benefit of the sailor.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Are there any crimps? A. No; not any crimps.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Is there any other place in the city to which sailors can go beside those places? A. Yes; there is the sailors' home.

Q. Give us some description of the sailors' home? A. The sailors' home now kept there is kept by a man named Potter—it is a very respectable place, no liquors are sold, and I think everything is done for the comfort of the sailors that can be done in that way to keep him sober, and, if he has money, to look after it and to send to his friends.

Q. Can you give us any idea of the number of sailors who come and go through your place, with regard to the hiring? A. About 2,500 are shipped in my office—some years less and some a little more.

Q. As a general rule, from what you know of the different sailors coming to this port, do our sailors compare favorably with any others that you know of? Yes; I think they are as good as any others. There is quite a number of sailors. I suppose one-third of all the sailors shipped at this port in my office are Norwegians—foreigners.

Q. As a general rule are the men capable of discharging the duties for which they are shipped—have you any difficulty otherwise with them? A. There are cases of course. An able seaman is supposed to be able to do anything on board ship, but sometimes they deceive us a little, and are not so good as they say they are or pretend to be. There are two classes of seamen—able and ordinary. As a rule we ask for their discharge from the last ship to see what kind of a man the last captain said they were.

Q. Have you anything to do with shipwrecked sailors that come here? A. No; not particularly. I look after them to get them employment, but the Board of Trade, or rather the different consuls, look after these, and also the Marine and Fishery Department, of which Mr. Johnston is the head here, and it is his duty to look particularly after that branch.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. About what would be the average wages received by an able seaman shipped at this port? A. That varies. I have been in the office nine years, and it has been as low as \$14 and as high as \$20, and about \$18 would be the average—that was with regard to the West India trade. To go to Europe and be paid off at the other side about \$25 a month; to go to Europe and return, about \$20.

Q. Those going on the West Indian trade calculate to return to this port? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Are they shipped for that? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. About what would be an average for an ordinary seaman? A. About \$2 less than an able seaman; if an able seaman gets \$18 an ordinary seaman gets \$16.

Q. And landsmen, what do they receive? A. We do not have any landsmen shipped.

Q. What are the duties of an ordinary seaman? A. He is supposed to know how to steer, reef and that kind of thing.

Q. Do you ship many men on the steamers? A. Not very many—some few.

Q. About what would stokers receive? A. About \$20 or \$22.

Q. And sailors on board steamers? A. \$18 to \$20.

Q. How are the men treated in Halifax in the outfitting stores, do they get pretty good value for their advances? A. I think they do.

Q. You do not think there is any great cause for complaint in that respect? A. I think they are pretty fairly dealt with.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. You say one-third of the entire number of sailors shipped from this port are Norwegians? A. Yes.

Q. How do they get into this port? A. They come in Norwegian vessels principally—of course some come in others—and they ship in Norway for \$8 and when they get to this side they run away a great many of them if they can.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Most of these Norwegian vessels come with salt and lumber? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. When a Norwegian ships from this port does he get full rates of pay with other sailors? A. Yes; except times when a Norwegian captain comes in with him and they talk so that I cannot understand them he may get him a little less at times. It is pretty hard for the Norwegian sailor when he gets out here on \$8 a month and is then taken back to his own country and is shipped over again for \$8. I would like them to stay here.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Are the seamen sailing from this port paid better wages than from foreign ports? A. Yes; better than from England or anywhere outside; they are not better paid, however, than those shipping from St. John or any place in the Dominion.

Q. Has the shipping in the harbor increased during the last few years? A. No.

Q. Has there been a falling off? A. Yes; there has been some falling off in my office on account of the West India trade; there is more done now in steamers than there was formerly and not quite so much in sailing vessels and the steamers running ship their men on the other side.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Has not the West India trade itself diminished? A. I think it has some.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do you know if the volume of trade has fallen off? That is the exports from this place? A. I do not think so.

Q. There is just a change from sailing vessels to steam vessels? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Which causes the diminution in the number of persons shipped from your office? A. Yes. There is not now so much done that way as there has been some

five years ago, but there are fully as many shipped now as there were nine years ago when I took up the office.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Have you anything to do with the stevedores in this port? A. No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Why would you like Norwegians to come to this port? A. They make good sailors and we have not enough men to fill the demand.

Q. Are Canadian sailors scarce? A. All classes are scarce.

Q. Do you not think if higher wages were paid that you would get more? A. I suppose higher wages would bring more, but we cannot get all we want.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. At certain seasons of the year I suppose you can get plenty, but it is at fishing times they go fishing? A. Yes; but ever since I have been in the office there has been a scarcity except in winter time—January and February?

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do many of the Nova Scotian fishermen go to sea, too? A. Yes; in the fall.

Q. Do they follow that as a profession or do they just take single voyages and then return again to fishing? A. The voyage to the West Indies only lasts two months and if they can make money enough then they go home and stay there for the winter.

Q. How would wages in Boston and here compare? A. I think it is more fluctuating in Boston than here; it is sometimes up and then down.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Have you ever heard the sailors complain of overloading? A. Very seldom; I have, of course, heard them saying that the vessel was too deeply laden.

Q. Is there any remedy here, do you know, for that? A. Yes.

Q. In cases where vessels are overloaded is the Act enforced? A. I think so; I have had but very little complaint; when I do I tell them their remedy, namely, to go to the Port Warden.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Are you satisfied that the law in that respect is enforced; do you feel that it would in such a case be enforced? A. I feel satisfied it would be.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is it your place to see the Act enforced? A. No; I would only tell them to go to the Port Warden.

Q. Have you known cases where the vessels were overloaded and complaint made and that then they were altered, or have you known cases where the vessels went to sea? A. I have known some of them to take out the overload.

Q. But have you known them to go to sea without taking out the overload or any of it? A. No.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. What is the longest coasting voyage from one port to another port in the Province? A. Six months is the longest coasting voyage.

Q. From here to New Brunswick and back, what is it? A. About a fortnight, but that all depends on the length of time they are detained there. In shipping men from here to the United States we only make the agreement for six months, to go backwards and forwards and after the six months are up they cannot be kept.

Q. Supposing they are required to ship from one port in Nova Scotia to another, what is the time? A. They are not required to go before me if they are coasting here in the Dominion.



Q. You say they are not obliged to go before you if they go from one port to another in Nova Scotia? A. No; but they are obliged to ship before a witness.

Q. For every place? A. Yes; for every place.

Q. Do you know if on those coasting voyages from one place in the province to another the men remain on board or go away at the first place of landing? A. Sometimes they leave.

Q. As a rule what do they do? A. They remain on board with the exception of those who may live there.

Q. Do you think it is better or not for the vessel that they should be changed each trip? A. I think it would be just as well for them to stay on for the six months.

Q. Then from one trip to another you think it is better for them to stay on? A. I think so.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do the sailors change then instead of remaining on? A. Most of the crew remain on board, but some men are in the habit of drinking at every port they get into, but men who are sober generally remain by the vessel for the season.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. That is in the coasting trade? A. Yes.

A. And in the other trade the practice is to ship a crew for the voyage? A. A vessel going to the West Indies ships a new crew every six months—that is after they have made the round trip.

By Mr. CLARK:

Q. Do the men on the coasting voyages load and discharge their vessels? A. In some places some do and some do not. In Nova Scotia it varies; sometimes they work on the rigging while in port and others are discharged, but most of them have to help to discharge the cargo.

EDWIN MC. CLAY, Dominion Immigration Agent, sworn :

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How long have you been in this position? A. Since 1884.

Q. And you had experience before that? A. Yes.

Q. Give us the number of immigrants that came out here in vessels last year, for instance? A. 10,674.

Q. How many of these remained in this Province? A. Somewhere about 2,000.

Q. What was the destination of the other portion? A. They ranged all the way from Halifax to Victoria, B.C.—scattered along the line.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. All in Canada? A. Not all the rest; some went to the Western States.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What proportion of them went to the Western States, do you think? A. Perhaps six or eight hundred.

Q. The majority of them were bound for our North-West? A. Yes.

Q. Amongst others were there many women and children? A. Yes; quite a large proportion of women and children. I could not give the exact figures.

Q. What class of immigrants were they generally? A. They were a very fine class of people as far as we can judge from appearances here and their conduct while here.

Q. Were they people of any means, do you know? A. Yes; most of them had considerable with them.

Q. Were there many tradesmen among them, or were they mostly farmers?  
A. Mostly farmers and farm laborers

Q. Going into the agricultural districts of the western Provinces? A. Yes.

Q. Were there any children sent out here by any associations or schools or anything of that kind? A. We had about 600 last year, but they were mostly for Ontario.

Q. Do you know what places they were directed to in Ontario? A. Some went to Toronto, Belleville, Niagara, Knowlton. They were directed to places where they were taken care of.

Q. Do you know what has been the outcome of them? Is it part of your duty to look after them or to enquire about them? A. They are placed in homes amongst farmers. Those who have remained here—and we have had a few remain in Nova Scotia—have been placed out with farmers, that is with responsible people.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. What do you hear about them? A. They are all doing well.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Were there any of these people who came out assisted in their passages in any way by the Government, or did they come out voluntarily? A. Some are assisted.

Q. What proportion of them were assisted? A. Well, as far as the ocean passage is concerned, last year, I think the majority of the immigrants coming were assisted, but after landing they have to provide for themselves.

Q. Were the passengers last year you speak of as being assisted by the Government in a position to help themselves after being landed? A. Yes; they were?

Q. There was none of them thrown upon charity or anything of that kind? A. No.

Q. And the most of them in that condition were bound for the western Provinces? A. Quite a large number of them was; a good many of them remained here in Nova Scotia.

Q. Do you know any of them at the present time who are doing well or fairly well or have they been unfortunate? A. There has been quite a number of farms, settled in Hants County and Yarmouth County last year by them. One man who came out last year went into the woods at a place called Forest Glen in Colchester County. I know that he has now cleared a nice little place from 15 to 20 acres he has built a house 15 feet wide by 28 long and has put a cellar six feet deep under the whole of it; he put up the wall himself from the stones taken off the farm and made mortar from clay. He has two sons, a wife and daughter with him and says he has no fear but that he is going to make a good comfortable home.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How much capital would that man have—do you know? A. Between three and four hundred pounds.

Q. He was an exception among the farmers? A. Well, we do not find people with that much capital going into the woods.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. These people who come out and settle as you said in those counties had they friends there before them or were they strangers? A. Some had friends here before and some are strangers here. I went out with some of them to see their properties before they purchased them and others have rented farms.

Q. Are they satisfied since? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Could you tell us what accommodation is provided for immigrants in Halifax while they are waiting for the trains? A. Well, we land them from the steamers at the deep water terminus, which I must say is more of a freight shed than a passenger

depot; we have a ticket office close by and there is a small office for the baggage-master to keep his checks in but the accommodation is not what it ought to be; now it is used for freight and passengers both together.

Q. Are there any seats provided? A. The waiting room will hold about 300 people, but outside of that they have to sit on boxes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. And at times you get 600? A. Yes; we have 1,700 due at the end of the week.

Q. On the one day? A. There is only two days' difference in the sailing of the vessels and they will likely both arrive here together.

Q. Have they fires in the building to warm themselves by? A. No.

Q. No place to cook in? A. No; there is no place to cook in. They go to the hotels at the head of the wharf for anything they want to eat while waiting for the train.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do they pay for these meals themselves? A. Yes; after landing they pay for everything themselves.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Are the immigrants coming here suitable for settlers? A. Yes.

Q. Are there many of them incapable of earning their own living? A. I have not seen any yet.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you think it would be beneficial if there was a place provided for them to cook in while waiting? A. I think it would be a great benefit to the people landing here if there was a comfortable place provided for them on their landing here. We cannot very well do with the place there much longer. We want a place where immigrants can cook their food and a proper receiving room.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is the longest time you know these immigrants to be required to wait after landing before they get to their train and on their way to their destination? A. Ten hours; that is when we have to make up two trains. Sometimes we have to make up three trains.

Q. Do they ever have to wait all night? A. If they land here at three or four in the afternoon it may happen. There is the "Polynesian" which is coming with the next mail, she has 910 emigrants on her; we cannot get all these away on one train and part of them must wait until we get the first out of the way; we can only get one train load at a time there.

Q. In such a case, what sleeping facilities can they find? A. None in the shed at all. Sometimes it is not a very pleasant thing to see women and children sitting around on the boxes; yet we make it as comfortable as we can for them, and we endeavor to get them on their way as quickly as possible. We always try to keep them out of the cold.

Q. Are they carefully protected against sharpers or persons who might take advantage of them? A. Yes; we are careful, very, in that respect.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. In what way? A. Well, we have policemen going constantly through the building all the time. I am going through it continually myself and if I see any one who I consider has no business there I order him away and see that the policeman turns him out.

Q. You have a good idea, I suppose, of suspicious characters? A. Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Everybody is suspicious that you do not know? A. Yes; as a rule.



By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. Do not the railway and steamship people look also after immigrants? A. Yes; they have men, officers of the ship or railway, looking after them all the time.

Q. They are there to see that the immigrants are not taken in by strangers to them? A. Yes; they are on watch all the time to prevent that.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are there any mechanics among those immigrants? A. A few, yes; but they are not encouraged to come at all.

Q. They are not assisted? A. No.

Q. If they do come it is under the guise of farm laborers? A. Yes.

Q. How do you know what they are—what means are taken to tell you that? A. The names, age and occupation are placed on the passenger list.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Have you ever been in England when those immigrants go on board? A. No; I have never been there.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you not have their certificate which must be given as to the fact that they are farmer laborers? A. We get no certificate to show what they are any more than the passenger list.

Q. If they have certificates they do not fall into your hands? A. No; sometimes they may bring a letter from the Canadian agents in the old country; that is the only thing.

Q. You are aware I presume that a man getting an assisted passage is required to have a certificate from a clergyman or a resident magistrate that he is what he purports to be? A. Yes.

Q. But these do not come into your hands? A. No.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. Has there been any accident happened to passengers from the shed being overcrowded? A. Once or twice we have had men who have fallen off the gangway to the railway track but they have not been seriously hurt; they are able to go on their journey.

Q. Is that the ship's gangway? A. It is the gangway between the two sides of the shed—that is the only means they have of crossing over from one side of it to the other.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do the steamships do all they can to facilitate the landing? A. Yes.

AARON SINFIELD, (Mason), sworn and examined.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What is your trade? A. Mason, master mason.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do you employ many men in the season? A. About 20 in a season.

Q. Is there any understanding between the masons and their employers as to the rate of wages? A. No; the men fix it themselves. Just say what it will be.

Q. What are the wages of masons here per hour? A. Up to the present time it has been 25 cents, but it is 30 cents from this.

Q. How many months in the year can a mason obtain work in the city of Halifax? A. Well, you might call it eight; perhaps a little more, but you may fully call it that; some have more and others not so much.

Q. On an average how much constant employment do you think they would have out of the eight months? A. They would make that full time; you might allow some deductions.

Q. Would there not be wet weather and like that to come off? A. All I have anything to do with I think will make fully eight months.

Q. Is there any scarcity of this class of labor here—that is men? A. Sometimes there is a scarcity of men.

Q. Do you ever have any difficulty in keeping up a staff sufficient for your business? A. No; only just when there is a spurt, no other time.

Q. How many hours does the trade work in the day? A. Nine from this out.

Q. And on Saturday? A. Nine each day all through the week.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. All through the eight months? Well, perhaps, not the whole year that, as there are times when they cannot work more than eight as they can't see, but there are nine hours in the day as long as the days hold out; they have been working ten hours a day.

Q. Are there many young men offering to learn the trade of masons? A. I think there are more wanting to learn than those who want to take them on.

Q. Are masons confined to stone work entirely? A. What they call a mason is a man who lays bricks and stone here.

Q. Then a stonecutter is distinct? A. Yes; stonecutting is a distinct branch.

Q. And plastering? A. Yes; and plastering is a distinct branch.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you find any difficulty with the men? A. No.

Q. You pay them once a week, on Saturday? A. Yes.

Q. Do they knock off work at five on Saturday? A. Yes.

Q. They work from 7 to 5? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever had any trouble with your men, strikes or such like? A. No.

Q. You never had? A. No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you employ plasterers? A. Yes.

Q. What is their average wages per day or per week? A. \$2.50 a day, that is 25 cents per hour.

Q. Is that for nine hours, did you say? A. No; ten hours is what they work.

Q. What is the wages paid to a plasterer's laborer—one who mixes the mortar and hair, &c.? A. \$1.25 a day.

Q. Does he receive as much wages as a builder's laborer? A. Yes; I don't know there is any difference.

Q. Do you think there is? A. Perhaps it might be about \$1.20 or \$1.25; they don't get exactly the same.

Q. Do you employ any lathers? A. Yes.

Q. What do you pay them? A. They are paid by the thousand.

Q. How much per thousand? A. \$1.25.

Q. In winter time when the plasterers work do they use heaters in the building? A. Yes.

Q. Who supplies the heaters, the boss or the men? A. The builder, the master mason.

Q. Commencing at this season if the men desire an increase of wages, do they notify the boss beforehand? A. They give a few weeks' notice.

Q. Do the employers consider that a satisfactory length of time? A. Sometimes they complain; it is rather short notice.

Q. If there is a decrease demanded on the part of the employers are the men given a notice any length of time? A. I have never heard tell of a case.

Q. If there was do you think they would, that is in your own opinion as a builder? A. I think it is likely they would. I think if it were a general thing they would.

Q. It is not a general thing among the bosses? A. It never happened.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are notices of increase or contemplated increase in wages given in time to govern contractors in making their contracts in the spring? A. Not in all cases.

Q. Do contractors keep in mind the possibility of an increase being asked when they are making up their contract? A. No; I do not think they do take that into consideration, unless it might be on some very special occasion, but not as a rule, because it is very seldom it happens; perhaps once in four or five years there might be a change.

Q. How long is it since there has been an increase in wages? A. Six years.

Q. And one is now being asked for this spring? A. Yes.

Q. What was the increase six years ago? A. 50 cents a day. That was five cents an hour.

Q. At what time were the hours of labor changed from ten to nine? A. Ever since the first of February this year.

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ROBERT TOBY, carpenter, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Are you a first-class man at the work, or are you a bencher? A. I work at the bencher or outside, which ever is wanted.

Q. What are your wages? A. Seventeen cents an hour.

Q. Do you get regular employment? A. No.

Q. What time, as a general rule, do you lose in a year? A. I lost about three weeks, and I considered that as a holiday.

Q. Do you work in a factory? A. No; I work for the Imperial Government.

Q. What are the hours of work? A. From 7 till 6.

Q. At all times the year? A. No; our time changes in winter, when we only work seven hours.

Q. Did you ever go out of Halifax to work? A. No; never.

Q. Never sent to out stations? A. No.

Q. But if sent to out stations what would you get extra? A. If we go to Melville Island we get a day's extra pay.

Q. Are they allowed anything for boarding out there? A. No; only the time we are walking in and out.

Q. Have you many civilians working for the Government out there? A. Yes; I suppose seven or eight altogether.

Q. Are they all paid the same rate of wages as you are? A. Yes, exactly; all men get alike.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. How frequently are you paid? A. Once a fortnight.

Q. Is any of your wages kept back? A. Well, you can hardly say it is kept back, but they keep the checks a week like in hand, but that is on account of keeping the books right.

Q. Have they any class of labor employed besides carpenters in the Royal Engineer's Department? A. Yes; plumbers, painters, masons and laborers.

Q. Are you able to tell us what wages they receive? A. I think the painters get about the same as we do. I think the masons get more, but I do not think they get much more, but I can hardly say what they get, for certain.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Is it constant work mostly, in the Engineer Department? A. No; it is only like job work the masons get; it is not like regular stone cutting unless it is a very big job.



By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Are you kept constantly the whole time at work whether it is wet or dry?  
A. Yes; they mostly find employment, and it is seldom we are sent home at all, as they can generally find a job at inside work.

JAMES CONORS, packer in tobacco factory, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How long have you been in the tobacco factory? A. About a year.  
Q. Are there many packers besides yourself there? A. One more.  
Q. What wages do you get? A. \$6.50 a week.  
Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. Ten hours.  
Q. Do you ever do any extra work there? A. No.  
Q. Is your factory a pretty good place to work in? A. Yes; it is a very good place.  
Q. You do not find any bad air, air unhealthy to work in or anything of that kind. A. No.  
Q. Have you ever had any trouble with your employer? A. No.  
Q. What times are you paid? A. Saturday evening about 5 o'clock or a little after.  
Q. Are all hands paid at that time? A. No; the girls are paid before we are paid.  
Q. If you should do any extra work would they pay you extra for it? A. Yes.  
Q. At what rate are you paid extra—is it at the same rate as you are paid in the day? A. I think it is 25 cents an hour.  
Q. That is for extra work? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Have you any young children in the factory? A. Not that I know of.

PATRICK McDONALD, employé, Mayflower Tobacco Co., sworn:

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I work at the Mayflower Tobacco Factory.  
Q. What is your department? A. I have charge of one of the rooms.  
Q. What rate of wages are you paid—by the week? A. \$7.  
Q. Have you worked at the factory very long? A. I have worked there since 1863.  
Q. Are there any small children employed in the factory? A. The oldest of them would be ten, fourteen and fifteen years. I mean to say the youngest.  
Q. Do the men and women work on the one floor? A. No; they are kept separate.  
Q. Do you find the place you work in comfortable enough? Have you any complaints to make, or have you any complaints to make with reference to the management of the factory? A. No; I have not.  
Q. Are there any fines or punishments inflicted on any one who does anything wrong? A. No.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Are the closets for the men and women separated? A. Yes.  
Q. How are they separated? A. By a board partition.  
Q. Are the doors side by side? A. No.  
Q. Can you see from one to another? A. No.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do the doors of the factory open out or in? A. They open in.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How many hands are there in the factory altogether? A. I cannot say rightly. I think about 75.

Q. In case of fire have you good stairs by which to get clear of the building?

A. Yes; there is a door right in front.

Q. Does it open out or in? A. It opens in.

JOHN CARROLL, employé of the Mayflower Tobacco Factory, sworn:

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. You work in the Mayflower Tobacco Factory? A. Yes.

Q. How long have you worked there? A. I have worked there eleven months.

Q. What particular branch of industry are you connected with? A. I am in the press room.

Q. Is your work very laborious? A. No, sir.

Q. Is the press worked by steam? A. No; the tobacco is put in by hand and then the press is worked by hydraulic pressure.

Q. Then you are all right—what constitutes a day's work? A. Ten hours.

Q. Do you work ten hours a day all winter? A. Yes; except sometimes when the factory is closed for two months.

Q. Is there any reduction of wages in the winter time? A. No.

Q. You are paid the same both summer and winter? A. Yes.

Q. Do you work the same hours summer and winter? A. Yes.

Q. What day are you paid your wages? A. Saturday.

Q. What wages do you receive? A. \$6.50 a week.

Q. Have you any complaints to make as regards the management of the factory?  
A. No.

Q. Do you ever see any improper conduct, or do you hear any bad language used among the employés or anything of that kind? A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What do you think would be the ages of the youngest boys in the factory?  
A. I should say 16 years and over,

Q. You think there would be none younger than that? A. I think not.

Q. Are there girls employed in the factory? A. Yes.

Q. What would be the age of the youngest girl employed? A. I could not say.

Q. Would they be under 16 years? A. They might be.

Q. Would there be any younger than 12? A. No.

Q. What class of persons in the factory make up the lumps, or do you make plug tobacco? A. No.

Q. What kind do you make? A. We make flat tobacco.

Q. Is it rolled in sheets before being made into plugs? A. Yes.

Q. What are the ages of the youngest stemmers? A. I should say 16.

Q. I suppose you can tell what wages they receive? A. No.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Are you kept constantly employed all the year around? A. We shut down for ten weeks or so. All the other time we are employed.

Q. You make ten months' work in the course of the year? A. We make from 9 to 10 months.

Q. Do you find that you can live comfortably on \$6 a week, received during 9 or 10 months a year? A. Not very comfortably.

Q. How many are there in your family? A. There are none but ourselves—that is two.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. You and your wife? A. Yes.

By MR. FREED:—

Q. About what rent would a man earning your wages have to pay? A. You cannot get a comfortable place for less than \$1 a week and over.

Q. A dollar a week? A. Yes.

Q. How many rooms could you get for a dollar a week? A. Two rooms.

Q. What would the size of them be? A. They would not be very large rooms.

Q. If you required more room you would have to pay higher rent? A. Yes.

FRANK SHEARS, employé Mayflower tobacco factory, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Where do you work—in the Mayflower Tobacco Factory? A. Yes.

Q. What is your special department? A. I am in the press room.

Q. Your duties are the same as those of the last witness? A. Yes.

Q. Do you agree with what he has said? A. Yes.

Q. Have you anything to offer the Commission besides the evidence the last witness gave? A. No.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Are you married? A. Yes.

Q. What are your wages? A. \$6 a week.

Q. Do you pay taxes? A. No.

Q. What rent do you pay? A. Seventy-five cents a week.

Q. How many rooms have you? A. I have one room.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. Do you cook in it? A. Yes.

Q. And sleep in it too? A. Yes.

Q. Do you save much money in the course of the year? A. Not very much.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do the boys in the factory consider that they are learning a trade? A. I do not know that it is much of a trade to them.

Q. But do they consider that they are learning a trade? A. I could not tell that.

Q. Do you know any boys, who went into the factory as such, that rose to be journeymen? A. Not in that factory. I have known them to do so in the Maitland Street factory.

Q. What men in the factory receive the highest wages, not counting foremen? A. They all receive pretty much the same except the foremen.

Q. What wages does the engineer receive? A. I could not tell.

Q. Do you know what the boys receive? A. I think they receive from \$4.50 to \$5 a week.

Q. What do they receive when they first begin work? A. I think they get \$3.

Q. What do girls receive when they begin? A. I think it is \$3.

Q. Would they be stemmers? A. No. The stemmers work piece work.

Q. Then those that work by the week get \$3? A. Yes.

Q. Do you expect to have your wages increased when you get to be more skilled in the work? A. No.



By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. How long would it take a young man going into the factory before he could make tobacco? A. I cannot say.

Q. You knew nothing about the business, I suppose, when you went in? A. I have been working at it nearly all my life, for 16 years.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Is it a tenement house that you live in? A. Yes.

Q. How many rooms are there in it? A. I cannot say. There are five families and I think all of them have two rooms except me.

Q. How many stories are there to the building? A. Three.

Q. Is the water in each separate tenement? A. No. It is in the yard. Each family has to go after it.

Q. Do you pay taxes or is that included in your rent? A. It is all included in the rent.

Q. Are there water closets in the house? A. No. It is in the yard.

Q. How many water closets are there in the yard? A. One.

Q. Is there a sink in each tenement? A. No. There is one in the yard.

Q. There is not one for each separate family? A. No.

Q. Is there any inspection of houses by the city authorities? A. I don't know.

Q. You do not see the inspector coming around to see if the houses are in a healthy condition? A. I have sometimes.

Q. Do you know what report he has made? A. No.

Q. Is the yard kept clean? A. Yes. It is kept in pretty good order.

Q. How often is the water closet cleaned? A. It is cleaned two or three times a year.

Q. Is it cleaned by the city or by the landlord? A. It is cleaned by the landlord.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. You say there are five families in the same tenement with you? A. Yes.

Q. How many children are there in the house? A. Some families have as many as six or seven.

Q. Then I suppose there would be 25 or 30 persons altogether in the building? A. There would be pretty close to that.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :

Q. Is the water closet kept in good condition? A. Yes. It is washed out twice a week.

Q. Is there any smell from it in summer? A. No.

Q. Are there any families having as many as five children that live in two rooms? A. Some families have three rooms and some two. They pay for them according to their means.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Can you give us an idea of the size of the house altogether? A. No. It is a good sized house.

Q. How many feet wide is it? A. It must be somewhere near 20 feet wide.

Q. How many feet deep is it? A. I could not rightly tell. I have no idea.

Q. How many stories high did you say it was? A. Three.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. How many rooms are there in the house? A. I do not know. I never took that much notice.

WILLIAM SLADE, employé Mayflower Tobacco Factory, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you work in the Mayflower Tobacco Factory? A. Yes.

Q. What is your business? A. Pressing.

Q. You have heard the evidence of the other persons just examined? A. Yes.

Q. Have you anything to add to what they have said? A. Nothing.

Q. You agree with them in every particular as regards the evidence they have given? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are you a married man, Mr. Slade? A. No; but I have a family to look after. I have to support my mother and two brothers.

Q. Are there any persons besides yourself who contribute to the support of the family? A. No.

Q. I suppose you are not compelled to live in two rooms? A. I do.

Q. What rent do you pay? A. \$1.25 a week.

Q. How many families are there in the house? A. I do not know. I have never been in any other rooms. I live on the lower flat.

Q. How many stories are there to the house? A. Three and an attic.

Q. Is there a separate water supply for each family? A. No.

Q. Is it in the yard? A. No; it is in the lower hall.

Q. And all the other families have to get their water from that one source of supply? A. Yes.

Q. Is there a separate sewer connection for each family? A. No; there is only one.

Q. Is it in the hall or in the yard? A. It is in the hall.

Q. Does any bad smell come from the pipe, or is it properly ventilated? A. I cannot say.

Q. Do you know if there is any bad smell in the summer? A. I have not been there in the summer.

Q. Is there a separate water closet for each family? A. No; there is only one.

Q. Is it in the house or in the yard? A. It is in the yard.

Q. How frequently is it cleaned? A. I cannot say.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Did you ever see it cleaned or know of its being done? A. I never did.

Q. Do you pay taxes? A. No.

By Mr. FREED:

Q. Have you ever seen the inspector of buildings come around to enquire into their condition? A. They have been around, but I did not see them.

Q. Is the sanitary condition of the house good, apart from its crowded state? A. Yes; I think it is very good.

THOMAS BAKER, employé of the Mayflower Tobacco Factory, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you work in the Mayflower Tobacco Factory? A. Yes.

Q. How long have you been working there? A. For over three years.

Q. What part of the work do you do? A. I am on the twist.

Q. What wages do you get? A. I get \$4 a week.

Q. Did you go in as an apprentice, or did you begin there? A. Yes.

Q. What wages did you receive at first? A. I got \$1.50.

Q. And you get your wages raised by degrees? A. Yes.

By the CHAIRMEN:—

Q. How old are you? A. I am 15 years old.

Q. Do you find your work too heavy for you? A. No; I do not.

Q. Have you any fault to find with the factory? A. None whatever.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. You are at the business how long did you say? A. I have been at it going on three years.

Q. Did the manager ask you your age when you went in? A. No.

Q. At the time you went on, were there any other boys there as young as you were? A. Yes.

Q. How many were there? A. About four.

Q. Were they all as young as you were? A. There were some younger and some the same age.

Q. I suppose there were some young girls there too? A. Yes.

Q. Some younger than you were? A. Yes. There were two a couple of weeks younger than I was.

Q. Is there no system of fining in the factory for being late or for any other cause? A. I was never late.

Q. Do you know of any other boys being fined for being late? A. No.

Q. Is the factory closed at a certain hour in the morning after the hands are supposed to be in? A. Yes.

Q. If the boys or employés come late, can they get in? A. Yes; they can come in, but they have to see the boss before they go to work.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Have you no boys in the factory punished in any way? A. No.

Q. None of them have been beaten for any cause? A. No.

Q. What is the age of the youngest boy you have known to work in the factory? A. Twelve years.

Q. What is the age of the youngest girl you have known to work in the factory? A. About fourteen.

Q. Are there no boys as young as twelve years of age there now? A. No.

Q. Do you know whether there has ever been any change by which such young boys are refused permission to work there? A. No; I do not.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Can you read and write? A. A little.

Q. How long did you go to school? A. Three years.

Q. Do you know any boys in the factory that can read or write? A. No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do the employés in the factory eat there? A. No.

Q. Are the boys searched on leaving? A. Yes.

Q. Who searches them? A. The foreman.

Q. Are the girls searched? A. No; they are not.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. At what hour do you go to work in the morning? A. About half past seven.

Q. At what hour do you quit work? A. At half past six.

Q. What time do you have for your dinner? A. An hour.

Q. Do you work the same time on Saturdays as other days? A. No.

Q. What time do you get off on Saturdays? A. Sometimes at five o'clock and sometimes half an hour later.



DANIEL HARSHMAN, employé of Mayflower Tobacco Factory, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you work in the Mayflower Tobacco Factory? A. Yes.

Q. How long have you been working there? A. About four years in the new factory, and seventeen years in the old one before it was burnt down.

Q. Do you find any advantages in the new factory more than the old one? A. Yes it is more roomy.

Q. Is the building better ventilated? A. Yes.

Q. What work do you do? A. I attend the press up stairs, where the tobacco is pressed into sheets before it is cut.

Q. Is your work very laborious? A. No; it is very light work.

Q. You press the tobacco by machinery? A. Yes; by an hydraulic press.

Q. What wages do you get? A. \$6.50 a week.

Q. Do you work any overtime? A. No, sir.

Q. What length of time do you work every day? A. Ten hours.

Q. Do you get off earlier on Saturdays than other days? A. Yes.

Q. What days are you paid your wages? A. On Saturdays.

Q. At what hour? A. About half-past four or five o'clock.

Q. Have you any complaint to make with regard to the present management of the factory? A. No.

Q. Is it better now than when you were working in the old factory? A. Yes; it is better.

Q. Are you a married man? A. I am.

Q. Can you tell us what rent you pay? A. My family do not live in the city.

Q. Do you board? A. No; I board myself.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. You pay no taxes? A. No.

DANIEL BURGESS, employé of the Mayflower Tobacco Factory, sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. What branch of business do you work at? A. I work at the cutting machine.

Q. Is it laborious work? A. No.

Q. What wages do you receive? A. I get \$6.50 a week.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. I work ten hours.

Q. Are there any boys in that department? A. No.

Q. Are they all men? A. Yes.

Q. Is there a drying room in connection with the factory? A. Yes.

Q. How long do men work in the drying room when they are putting in stock? A. A couple of minutes.

Q. It is exceedingly hot is it not? A. I never was in it myself.

Q. Can the men remain there more than fifteen minutes? A. I could not tell.

Q. Do any boys work in that part of the building? A. No.

Q. Is it off the main factory? A. Yes. It is in the L.

Q. After the stock is in it is locked up? A. Yes.

Q. You say you work ten hours a day? A. Yes.

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. You have to support a wife and family? A. Yes.

Q. Can you live comfortably on \$6 a week? A. Well, I have two children working.

Q. Are they working in the same factory? A. There is one in the factory and one in the cotton factory.

Q. How old are they? A. One will be sixteen years old next month, and the other is fourteen.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Are the men searched every night on leaving the factory? A. Yes.

Q. Who searches them? A. The foreman.

Q. Does he stop each one on going out? A. Yes.

Q. What is the object of searching them? A. To see that we have no tobacco concealed.

Q. Is much tobacco stolen from the factory? A. I cannot say.

Q. Have you ever heard of any being stolen? A. No.

Q. Is it because you are paid such low wages that you are searched? A. I do not think that is the object.

Q. Which of your children is it that works in the cotton mill, the elder or the younger? A. The elder.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How long has he been working there? A. For seven months.

Q. Can you tell us the age of the youngest child working at the cotton mill? A. I do not know.

Q. What would be the earnings of such a child? A. \$1.50 a week.

Q. And what would be the earnings of the one in the tobacco factory. A. \$3 a week.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. What time do you leave off work in the tobacco factory? A. At six o'clock.

Q. Are you searched at that time or previously? A. We are searched at that time.

Q. How long does it take to search all the hands? A. Only a few minutes.

Q. You have to wait your turn in being searched? A. Yes.

Q. Do the men submit to that operation with a good grace? A. Yes.

Q. I suppose they are accustomed to it? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How far do you live from the cotton factory? A. A quarter of a mile.

Q. What time do they go to work there? A. At half-past six o'clock.

Q. In the winter is it the same as in the summer? A. Yes.

Q. Is it not hard to require a child to get up that early and go to work? A. It is very hard.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Has your child ever been fined in the cotton factory? A. No.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. You never heard of any ill-treatment there? A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What time do they quit work in the cotton factory? A. At a quarter past six.

Q. Does your child take his meals to the cotton factory or does it go home? A. It takes its dinner with it.

Q. What time are they allowed at noon for eating? A. They are allowed an hour.

Q. Are they ever required to work at night? A. Not as I know of. My children have never worked at night.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do you live in a tenement house? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. How many rooms have you? A. Three rooms.

Q. What rent do you pay? A. \$1 a week.

Q. On what flight are your rooms? A. They are on the top flight.

Q. How high up? A. Two stories.

Q. Is the house well ventilated, and is the sanitary condition of the outhouse good? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREEKS:—

Q. How many children have you altogether? A. Five.

Q. Do you pay rent every week? A. When I have it I do—if not I let it stand over.

Q. Do you pay your rent in advance? A. No.

Q. Are there any working class in Halifax who do? A. I do not know of any.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do you know of wives going out to work to support their families? A. I know of some.

Q. Is that on account of small wages paid to their husbands? A. No; it is in cases where the men are sick.

Q. Do you know of any who have to work on account of small pay received by their husbands? A. No.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. How much time does a child working in the cotton factory have for recreation? A. About an hour every evening and the whole of Saturday afternoon.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Is there a sewer in the house you live in? A. Yes.

Q. Is the water on the premises? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Is there any drainage to the house? A. I cannot tell about that.

Q. Have you a sink in the yard? A. It is in one of the kitchens.

Q. The water must go somewhere? A. Yes; or it would overflow the house.

JOHN SUTHERLAND, foreman Mayflower Tobacco Factory, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you work in the Mayflower Tobacco Factory? A. I do.

Q. How long have you been working there? A. For going on six years.

Q. Are you the foreman of the Mayflower Tobacco Factory? A. I am.

Q. About what wages do you get? A. \$8 a week.

Q. Do you have work all the year around? A. Yes.

Q. Your work is constant? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any particular charge or any special department, or have you the supervision of the whole place? A. I have one special department of work and the supervision over the place too.

Q. Have you had occasion to punish any of your hands? A. No, sir.

Q. Do you impose any fines? A. No. We do not have fines.

Q. You never knew of children being ill-treated in the factory? A. We do not have children.

Q. You do not know of any immoral language or improper familiarity taking place among the hands? A. No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Have you the power to employ hands at will? A. No. I have not power to employ hands, but I have power to discharge them. They are employed by the manager.

Q. When men leave the factory are they compelled to give notice? A. No.

Q. Are they discharged on the spot? If necessary? A. Yes.

Q. If a man is discharged in that way is he paid at the time? A. Yes.



By Mr. KELLY :

Q. You search every person in the department as he leaves? A. I search all the men in all departments.

Q. I suppose you have found persons in the habit of taking tobacco away from the factory? A. It is a standing rule in all factories that the hands shall be searched.

Q. Have you found persons taking tobacco? A. Yes.

Q. What do you do in such cases? A. I take it from them.

Q. Do you pay them their wages? A. Yes.

Q. And let them go? A. Yes.

Q. There are girls employed in the factory? A. Yes.

Q. Are there separate conveniences for the girls and men? A. Yes.

Q. Is there any screen or partition between them? A. There is a board partition.

Q. Are the water-closets in rotation? A. Yes.

Q. With a screen between each? A. Yes.

Q. How is the ventilation in the factory? A. There is any amount of ventilation. There are 120 windows.

Q. Are the rooms pretty high? A. Yes; they are about 12 feet high.

Q. Do you employ men all the year around steady? A. While there is work we do, but we shut down in the winter for a time.

Q. For what length of time do you shut down? A. For about two months.

Q. And do the men find anything to do until you start again? A. They have to look around for employment.

Q. Have you many applications for employment? A. Yes; a good many.

Q. Have you more than you can give work to? A. Yes.

Q. In case a man leaves have you any difficulty in replacing him? A. Not the slightest.

Q. Do many men leave the factory for other employments? A. Very few.

Q. They stay right on with you? A. Yes.

Q. Do many boys who once enter the factory leave for trades or other work? A. We only have about two boys.

Q. As a rule, how long do girls remain in the factory? A. While there is any work for them to do. Some of them go out when they are married.

Q. Have any of them left for domestic servants? A. There may be one or two occasionally.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Have you men and women at the same kind of work? A. No.

Q. Do you regulate the wages of the men? A. No; the manager does that.

Q. Have you been in St. John or have you worked there? A. No; I have never worked there.

Q. You do not know anything of the comparison of rents in the two places? A. No; I do not.

By Mr. WALSH ;—

Q. Have you worked in any other place than Halifax in any tobacco factory? A. No.

Q. How many tobacco factories are there in Halifax? A. There are three.

Q. In every one of them do they search the employés? A. Yes; as far as I know.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG ;

Q. Are there many foremen or overseers in the factory? A. There are three.

Q. Are the foremen searched? A. No.

JOHN WYATT, spinning master of the Cotton Factory, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. You work in the cotton factory? A. Yes.

Q. Have you worked there long? A. I have worked there for eight months.

Q. Is there any special position you work in? A. Yes. I am spinning master.

Q. What wages do you receive? A. I receive \$15 a week.

Q. Is your work constant? A. Yes.

Q. If the mill shuts down your work and pay go right on all the same? A. Yes.

Q. Are there any particular hours that you have to work, more or less than any one else? A. I am supposed to work in the hours I am required.

Q. If you work extra time, are you paid extra? A. No.

Q. Do you know of any system of fining in the factory, or anything of that kind?

A. There are fines for misconduct, or breakage, or injury to the machinery, and things of that sort.

Q. Are these things frequent? A. No; not very.

Q. What is the amount of the fine imposed generally? A. 25 cents.

Q. In what part of the work in particular do these breakages or things of that kind occur? A. The fines are imposed for breaking brushes, or oil cans, or anything of that kind sort purposely. That is my department.

Q. Then you have more knowledge of the fines than any other man in the concern? A. Yes.

Q. What do you call misconduct that would call for the imposition of fines?

A. Throwing bobbins or knocking things about carelessly.

Q. What is the highest fine inflicted in your room? A. 25 cents.

Q. Give us the highest amount of fine that any employé has been fined? A. That is the highest.

Q. In one week? A. Yes.

Q. Who decides, when anything is broken—whether it is done wilfully? A. We have to decide by information obtained from one another.

Q. You are the judge in the matter? A. Yes.

Q. Do you inflict the fines yourself? A. I put them down in a book and they are stopped off in the office.

Q. Have you rules to state what offences operatives are liable to be fined for? A. Yes.

Q. Have you a copy here? A. No.

Q. Can you give us a copy? A. Yes.

Q. What time in the morning do children employed in the factory go to work? A. At half past six o'clock.

Q. Do they go at the same hour in winter, as well as summer? A. Yes.

Q. How many hours do they work? A. Ten hours and thirty-four minutes.

Q. Do they work longer than that at any time? A. Very seldom, except we are pushed.

Q. How frequently would that be? A. About the first month I came here, we worked later three nights a week.

Q. How late would they be required to work on those nights? A. Until quarter past seven.

Q. Are they allowed time to eat? A. They can bring it with them, or have it sent.

Q. What extra wages are they paid? A. They are paid for any extra time according to the amount of their wages.

Q. They are paid the same rate as for the day time? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any knowledge in relation to fines inflicted in the weaving department? A. No.

Q. Have you any knowledge of bad language used to operatives in the mill by any one? A. That is kept out of my hearing.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Are any complaints of the use of such language made to you? A. Very seldom.

Q. Is there any rule that prohibits the use of such language? A. No.

Q. Is any care taken to protect the morals of young children employed in the factory? A. Yes.

Q. What oversight is there kept over them? A. I have two under men that constantly look after them.

Q. If you saw a man doing anything improper to the children would you dismiss him? A. Instantly.

Q. Or if you heard anything improper what would you do? A. I would dismiss him.

Q. How are the closets separated? A. By a brick wall.

Q. There is no division outside? A. No.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. What is the youngest person employed in your department? A. The ages would be from 11 to 14.

Q. What would be the weekly wages of a child of 11 years of age? A. \$1.25.

Q. And what would be the rate of increase? A. Just according to the ability of the child.

Q. You have no law in Nova Scotia fixing the earliest age at which a child can be engaged? A. No.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Have you any rule in the factory in relation to that? A. No; but children of 11 years of age scarcely do anything but keep the bobbins in their proper places.

Q. Do you punish talking? A. No; but we try to keep them at work as well as we can.

Q. Do you fine them for talking? No.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. Have children ever been whipped in the factory for inferior work? A. No; we do not allow lathering of any description.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. How do the doors open, in or out? A. Both ways; they are spring doors.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. What is the average wages per week of a woman working in a spinning room? A. \$3.25.

Q. Do these women pay their own board? A. I do not know.

Q. If a machine breaks down during the day, or stops through no fault of the employes, are they compelled to work overtime to make it up? A. No.

Q. Do you pay them while they are doing nothing? A. Yes; if a machine breaks.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. For what length of time do you pay hands when a machine stops? A. We have paid half work for a week.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q. Do you lock the doors after the hour for commencing work? A. No.

Q. Have you imposed fines for being late? A. I have never imposed any.

Q. How high is the building? A. Four stories.

Q. Are there any fire escapes? A. Yes.

Q. Are there fire escapes from every stories? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Have you elevators? A. Yes; we have one.

Q. That is for raising and lowering material? A. Yes.



By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Can you speak of the carding room? A. The carding master is here.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Is the machinery protected as well as it can be? A. Yes; everything is covered.

Q. You see to that to prevent accidents? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Have you ever had any accidents in your room? A. No.

JOHN KNIVETON, superintendent of winding, weaving and warping room, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What is your department? A. I have charge of the cloth room—that is all that comes under the head of weaving; and I am foreman and have charge of that particular department.

Q. Have you worked elsewhere? A. I have worked several places in the old country; I have been employed in mills since I was ten years of age.

Q. How does our industry compare with that of the old country? A. Much the same.

Q. Do you find our employés here as tractable as the people in the old country? A. In some cases we do and in others they are very difficult to teach. We attribute that mostly to the children being brought up to the thing, as it were.

Q. Have you any young children in your department? A. Yes; I have them from 11 upwar's.

Q. What wages do these children at 11 years get? A. \$1.00 a week.

Q. What is the nature of their employment? A. They are called reelers, the bulk of them—four of them are.

Q. Do they interfere in any way with the machines in that? A. They do not work on machines at all; this is all hand work. Then at about 12 years they are what is called tenderers, that is they attend upon the weavers and learn weaving.

Q. What wages are you employed at yourself? A. \$16 a week.

Q. Do you consider that as good or better than the wages you had in England? A. I did not hold the same position in England. If I was holding the same position in England I should get about the same.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Were you engaged in the old country to come out here? A. Yes.

Q. Was your salary fixed at the time? A. Yes; it was fixed at \$15 and it was raised since it was agreed on in the old country.

Q. Were you engaged for any length of time? A. For twelve months; that was in November, 1882.

Q. What do women receive per week in the winding room? A. The winders will make from \$2.50 to \$3.50. They are paid by the piece.

Q. Are there any women who receive more than that? A. Warpers from \$4 to \$6 a week. They are paid by the day.

Q. In the weaving room what do women receive, one who runs three looms? A. A three-loom weaver would make about 60 cents a day, that is a good three loom weaver. Our average price would be per cut from eighteen and a half cents, which I believe is the lowest, up to 26 per cut and they can do a cut a day on each loom.

Q. Have you any women in the weaving room who manage four looms? A. Plenty.

Q. What would their wages be? A. On an average they will earn—I have had them earn \$8.50, \$9, \$9.50 repeatedly, and they are scarcely ever less than \$8.50.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Is that per week? A. A fortnight—we pay by the fortnight and all answers for wages are by the fortnight: they are all answered on that basis.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Whose mill is this you are speaking of? A. The Nova Scotia Cotton Factory.

Q. Have you any women who manage but two looms? A. Yes.

Q. How much do you say they receive per week? A. Well, they are mostly children—young boys and girls who run two—we expect when they get to 15 or 16 to run four and over that age we have them running six looms.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What would these children earn per loom? A. They would hardly earn twenty cents each loom—they do not have wages in the same proportion as first class hands for what they do, but we have had children who scarcely ever miss a cut and run six looms continuously and that makes \$1.20 per loom per week.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What would be the age of the youngest girl employed at weaving? A. About fourteen, I think, but as a tenderer probably about 12 or 13; a tenderer is a girl or boy that is coming on—that is learning to weave. Each weaver has an assistant as some of those with six looms are not capable of driving them themselves and in these cases they have a tenderer. The weaver has to pay the tenderer \$1.00 a week out of her own wages.

Q. About what would be the average age of the winders? A. I should say about 20 years of age.

Q. What would be the age of the youngest of them? A. I do not think less than seventeen.

Q. And of the warpers? A. About the same—they would be 20 at least—they would be more experienced girls. We generally put bigger girls there.

Q. About what proportion of the weavers have four looms or more? A. I should say about half have four or six.

Q. When they get to any respectable skill, I suppose, you give them four looms? A. Yes.

Q. How many years ought a girl to be working at weaving from the time she becomes a tenderer, if she has good fair ability, until she is able to run four looms? A. About 12 months. She would start as a tenderer and we should give her two looms, if smart, in about two or three months time; and she would probably keep these two for four or five months further on, and if it happened to be in the winter when she was able to do it we might keep her until the spring on account of the shortness of the days, as it is better to manage them in the light weather.

Q. Are operatives in the weaving room fined for anything except bad work? A. Very seldom, except it is gross carelessness; for instance, when they are playing around the machinery. We have a number of trucks which are used for carrying the cotton in, and we have had several cases where the trucks have been run into the looms and broke a part of the machinery which costs some \$2 in England and on which we have to pay freight and duty besides, which it takes two or three hours to replace it, and in these cases we fine them \$1; this, however, can never occur except in cases of gross carelessness.

Q. If an accident occurred would you fine them for it? A. We never fine for accidents.

Q. What if there are imperfections in the cloth? A. We fine mostly five or ten cents, sometimes 25, and now and then they reach 50 cents, but that is for an extreme case.

Q. Are the imperfections in the cloth ever due to the bad quality of the yarn? A. We never fine for anything except what the weaver could have helped. We fine more or less every day. The bulk of the fining is in the weaving room, and for

the simple reason that after the cloth leaves the room the defect cannot be rectified and the damaged part has to be taken away and sold on the market as seconds and we lose from 25 cents on each one.

Q. Do you ever have complaints from the weavers that the cotton is bad and that they cannot work with it? A. Yes; in these cases we do not fine them, but that scarcely ever happens.

Q. How do the wages of weavers here compare with the wages weavers receive in England? A. About the same; a little higher here, but not much.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. On the class of cloths turned out here what would they receive per cut in England? A. You are asking a question I cannot answer from the fact that we do not there weave coarse cloth as here. I never worked in a coarse cloth mill till I came here; the work was much finer and the cases could not be compared together. This mill is for coarse sheeting or shirtings, and the one in England turns out jacquenet, that is muslin, cambries and other finer work.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Have you any men weavers? A. Yes.

Q. Does the price per cut depend upon the quality of the cloth? A. No; on the number of threads put in per inch.

Q. Have you any women running as many looms as the men? A. Yes.

Q. Do they get the same price per cut as a man? A. Exactly; young and old, and paid the same price per cut.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. You had a family in the old country? A. Yes.

Q. You had to hire a tenement in the old country? A. The way I understand the word tenement is a house where two or more families live in one house, but we do not have that at home; every family occupies its own house, except may be young married people, who may be living at home with one of their parents.

Q. Are those houses built by the mill-owners for their people? A. Sometimes they are in country places, but never in the towns.

Q. How would the rent compare with rents here? A. I had a house of five rooms and a cellar for four and sixpence; the rents are considerably cheaper than here. A similar house to that here would cost \$110 or \$120 a year any way. You could get a house in the old country for three shillings a week that is equal to what you can get here for a hundred dollars a year. I am now only speaking of rents in Halifax, as I have never been in any other place here.

Q. Do you think the wages paid here are larger than those paid in England? A. Yes.

Q. Did you sign an agreement before you came out here? A. I had an agreement, but never signed any agreement.

Q. Was your passage paid out this way? A. Yes.

Q. And your family's as well? A. Yes; later on.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Would the wages paid here go as far as they would go in the old country in purchasing the necessities of life? A. No.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What would the difference be? A. I could scarcely answer that question.

Q. As near as you can then? A. We can get a ton of house coal for eight shillings at home, and the rent of my house was four shillings and sixpence a week, and you can get a first-class suit of clothes for thirty-five shillings. Flour is about the same; butchers' meat is considerably higher than here, but the other things are about the same. The things dearer in this country are house rent, fuel and clothing.



Q. Do you think employés in England live as well as they do here? A. I think they do.

Q. Do they clothe as well? A. I should say yes, quite as well.

Q. And they eat as well? A. Those who are willing to work in the old country can live quite as well as they can here.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Have they the opportunity of working? A. The bulk of cotton factory operatives can get work at almost any time.

Q. When they are capable and sober they can find employment in England? A. Yes; they can.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you find the employés here as sober and industrious as in the old country? A. I think they are as sober, but certainly not as industrious; they have never been brought up to it from infancy, and we get them pretty well grown up here, and they do not take to it kindly at all. If we take some say at 10 and 12 years of age, and they grow up with us, they will make good and faithful servants.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. How do you make out that they are not trained young enough when they go at 11 years of age? A. I spoke of the older hands—when we commenced operations here we did not take those young ones, but afterwards decided to take younger hands as soon as we could get hold of them. When they started here it was not popular and the people seemed to be afraid to send their children amongst us.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How much do you pay for soft coal in Halifax? A. I could not tell you. My wife orders and I never ask the cost of it, but I know it is dearer than in England, as she told me so and she generally looks at both sides of a shilling when spending it.

Q. What would you pay for it in Lancashire? A. I used to get it often at eight shillings a ton. This was probably about 18 miles from Manchester.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Would that be the long ton? A. Yes.

Q. You do not get the long ton here? A. No; it is the short ton here.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Was that for Swansea coals? It was something similar to Cape Breton coals, Sydney; it was cleaner than the Pictou coal.

WILLIAM GOOD, master carder, cotton factory, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How long have you been engaged in the cotton factory? A. Since I was seven years of age, 23 years altogether.

Q. But how long have you been connected with this factory? A. Eight months this month.

Q. Is the order of work any different from those you have been in before? A. We have as good in England as here and we have worse; it is no better than some.

Q. What wages do you get for supervision and management of the work? A. \$15 a week.

Q. How many hours a day cover the work you are responsible for? A. 10 and three-quarter hours.

Q. That is the hours you are responsible for as regards yourself? A. Yes; and the hands and all.

Q. If you have any extra hours from any cause are you paid extra? A. No.

Q. How do you find your hands as a general rule, are they orderly or are they not? A. They are pretty fair considering the country they are in.

Q. Why do you say that? A. I mean they are pretty fair because there are but few mills here; no opposition.

Q. Then you mean as regards their ability as hands? A. No.

Q. You mean with regard to their conduct? A. They are pretty fair in their conduct.

Q. Have you ever known anything to the contrary, any kind of bad language, immorality or anything of that kind? A. No; not here.

Q. Do you often have to fine them for dereliction of duty in your room or for breakages or anything of that kind? A. Well, I fine them now and then, and then they have the privilege of leaving the work or standing the fine.

Q. Do they stand that? A. Yes; I tell them that before I fine them.

Q. What are the causes for which you fine them mostly? A. Well, there is throwing bobbins and the breakage of machinery and the putting of things where they ought not to put them, and so causing break downs, and then we fine them.

Q. Have you had any accidents in the place of which you are the manager? A. No.

Q. Do you often have occasion to fine them or are the fines seldom imposed? A. Very seldom.

Q. What is the amount? A. 25 cents.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Did you work in any other mill outside the one you are engaged in since you left the old country? A. I have worked in no other mill in Canada only here since I left the old country.

Q. Were you engaged in England to come here? A. Yes.

Q. Was your wages fixed in England? A. Yes.

Q. You came out then by contract? A. The contract was made in England.

Q. Was that agreement binding for any length of time? A. Yes; for twelve months.

Q. Did you pay your own passage out here, or did the firm? A. The firm paid it.

Q. Did they take the passage out of your wages? A. No.

Q. That was extra? A. That is the agreement.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. And they followed the agreement? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Is there much dust in the carding room? A. It is pretty fair, but there is not so much as there has been and there will be less than there is now, because a new propeller will be put in.

Q. Are there many women working in the carding room? A. Thirty odd, I believe.

Q. Are they paid by the week or by the piece? A. Some by the piece and some by day's wages.

Q. What is the average wages per day? A. They generally get about 30 cents a day, the girls—and young women may get to 94 cents a day.

Q. Is 94 cents the highest? A. That is the women's wages for day wages.

Q. That is the highest wages you pay a woman in the carding mill? A. Yes.

Q. Is there any of the women receiving less than that? A. Not on day's wages.

Q. What is the average earnings of a woman in the carding mill, I mean on piece work? A. That is from \$5 to \$6 a week.

Q. Are the women at piece work kept as constant and steadily at work as the women working by the week? A. They are engaged from week end to week end.

Q. Can you tell us the reason why a woman on piece work earns more than a woman on day's work? A. Because they lay their minds down more to work at it.

Q. Do you not think that in placing a woman at piece work, you pay her for attention to her business? A. We pay her for what she turns off.

Q. Do any of the women prefer working by piece and others by day's work? A. No; there is no preference. We pay them, if for piece work, piece money, and if for day's wages, pay them day's wages. It is according to what work there is for them to do, and if qualified for piece work, then if there was piece work we would give it to them.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. When you engage them you pay them day's wages? A. No; just according as we have the work for them, piece or day work.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do they require more ability to do piece work than the other? A. They require more ability for piece work than for day wages.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is the work turned out by piece work better than that turned out by day work? A. We get the work more quickly turned out by piece work than by day work, but we get equally as good work.

Q. Do the piece workers have to work harder than the day workers? A. Yes.

Q. But they work the same hours? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any young girls in the carding room? A. We have them from fourteen to forty.

Q. Do you take their own word for it as regards their ages? A. We use our own judgment when we engage them; if I think a young girl is under fourteen, I generally question them as to their scholarship.

Q. Can the young girls in your department read and write? A. Yes.

Q. You know that of your own knowledge? A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever hear any state that they would choose to be paid more frequently? A. No.

Q. Is there ever any of their money kept back from them? A. We pay on Thursday, and the pay for the first four days of the week is kept back.

Q. If any of the employes are discharged do you then pay them in full at the time of their discharge? A. They are paid generally when discharged, some may have to wait till pay day—Thursday.

Q. Do you say it is the rule to wait? A. It is a rule we have here, but if people wanted their money they get it, and if not they wait until pay day.

Q. As regards the system of fining, is there any rule in the factory specifying the amounts of fines, or do you put them on at your own option? A. I do not know. There are the rules hanging up, but I think it is only for being late; but the fines I impose are at my own option and for their own benefit alone, for neglect or damage; they can either leave the work or pay the fines.

Q. You tell them that before you fine them? A. Yes; that they can leave work or pay the fine.

Q. And you then name the amount of the fine? A. Yes; if it is too much they will soon tell me, or else they will leave.

Q. You say there is no rule specifying the amount of fine for any cause? A. I believe there are rules, but I do not know that I have read them.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Is it a printed list of rules? A. I think there is a printed list, but I have not read it through. I do not know whether there are any rules or not.



By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do the fines go into the funds of the company? A. They go to the office of the company.

Q. Have you known any cotton factories where the amounts of the fines would be distributed for the benefit of the employés at the end of six months, or at the end of the year? A. No.

Q. You have known no such case as that? A. No.

By Mr. McLEAM:—

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. Were you married before you came out to this country? A. I think so, or else I would have to be sharp in 8 months.

Q. How do wages compare in Canada with those in England? A. It is rather more here, but it costs more for living.

Q. What is the comparison? How much more does it cost here than in England? A. We can get as high as fifty shillings in England.

Q. How much here? A. \$15.

Q. What is the difference in living? A. I do not know as I am not settled down. I know what it is to board.

Q. What is the house rent there for 5 or 6 rooms? A. 7 shillings a week.

Q. Do you know what it would be here? A. No; I do not.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Was your agreement entered into and signed on the other side? A. Yes.

Q. How do the wages given to children on the other side of the water compare with the wages given to the children working in the mill here, for instance, say young girls about 14? A. I may say here that at ten years of age they work at what is called "half timers" in the old country. That is because they have to attend school till they pass the standard and by the time they are 14 they are generally of full work.

Q. What do they receive? A. Fifteen pence is about a fair amount or about four shillings or about half a crown to some; it varies much. This is for half timers.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. Is there any law in England compelling those children to go to school till they are a certain age? A. Yes; from 5 years up to 10—they must be ten before they can work in a mill. If they did not attend at the school the master would send a note to the parent to know the reason why his child did not attend at school.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What, after the child is ten years of age? A. Then they can work half time till they pass the standard and that is what we call half timers because they are half time off at school.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. Up to what time are half timers compelled to go to school? A. Up to 14.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Is there any law, let me understand, so that when a child is fourteen years of age and it has not been sufficiently educated to prevent it from going to work in a factory? A. No; they cannot prevent them from working in a mill after they are 14.

Q. They cannot prevent them whether educated or not? A. No.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What wages would a woman working in the carding room in England earn—that is those who do light work, such as the women do of whom you have spoken here? A. Different places, different pay; around Manchester it runs smaller than around near Bolton. Now in Bolton females get four and twenty and five and twenty shillings for fifty-six and a half hours work.

Q. That is higher wages than they receive here? A. On an average.

Q. Is that for a similar class of work? A. It is finer than here.

Q. Take Manchester, in mills where the work is about the same as here in Halifax, what wages would they receive? A. \$5 a week or \$4.50 a week.

Q. That is for working fifty-six and a half hours in Manchester? A. Yes.

ALEXANDER MCKAY, Supervisor of Schools, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Will you give us an idea of the state of the schools in the city? A. I will try to answer any question that you ask.

Q. I prefer not to ask questions. Just give us the state of the schools as far as your memory serves, and questions may be suggested by what you have to say. Tell us something with regard to the management of the schools—how they are conducted, and so on? A. We have in the city about 106 teachers employed, ranging from primary up to academic work. Six are engaged in the county academy, as it is called, and three others are engaged in academic work in St. Patrick's school. A few of the departments I would rank as doing superior work, and the great proportion of schools as doing very good average work—above the average probably—and very few indeed as doing inferior work. Of the teachers about 23 are trained professional teachers, who have received their training at the Normal School. I cannot be positive as to the numbers, not having my reports here, but that is about the number. The others have been mostly trained in the city schools, and a considerable number of them in the Brunswick Street School. The school houses and rooms are in fair condition. Some of the buildings recently erected are very good indeed. The principal defect of the school houses would be want of ventilation, and perhaps some overcrowding, especially in the primary departments. That is occasioned, I suppose, by a desire to be as economical as possible; but great improvement has taken place within the past four or five years with regard to the school buildings and ventilation, and that sort of thing.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Are the schools of Nova Scotia free? A. Yes. They are supported by assessment.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. There are no school fees? A. The schools are free to pupils residing in the section; but when a pupil moves from one section to another and does not acquire privileges in the latter section, he is required to pay fees there.

Q. Is there any Government aid given to the schools? A. The schools are supported in three different ways: First, there is a tax on the section; the city of Halifax for this purpose forms one section. Most of the schools in the Province have in addition to that a tax levied on each head of the inhabitants of the country, and that is divided among the schools in proportion to the attendance and the time they are taught. Then there is the Government allowance to each teacher, depending on the time given to teaching and the grade of the license.

Q. Is the county academy free? A. Yes; it is free to all persons in the county. It has been free for two years.

Q. Do the pupils in the schools provide their own books? A. They do.

Q. Are these books published by the Government, or have the publishers of the books authority from the Government to publish them, or is there absolute free trade in the publication of the books? A. There is free trade in the books, except that the books used are prescribed by the Council of Public Instruction, who say what books shall be used in the schools.

Q. And any person may publish them? A. Yes; so far as I know.

Q. Are any school ages prescribed by the Government? A. The age of five years admits a child to school, but there is no limit upwards.

Q. Can you tell us what proportion of children between five years and fifteen years of age are enrolled as attending school? A. I might do so by referring to the tables.

Q. Can you tell us how it is in your own district? A. About one in six of the whole population.

Q. What proportion are in attendance on school? Fifty-nine per cent. as far as I remember. I think this year it is sixty-two per cent.

Q. Do many of the children quit school at an early age in order to go to work? A. A large number of children leave school before they have finished the common school grade of education. I should think about seventy-five per cent. of them leave school before they have finished the common school education. There are eight grades, and a good many children—perhaps more than seventy-five per cent.—leave school before reaching the eighth grade; and fifty-six per cent. before reaching the sixth grade.

Q. Tell us the average age of the children who quit school to go to work before the sixth grade? A. I can only form a general estimate. I have never made any calculations on that point; but think the age would be between twelve and thirteen.

Q. Do you impart any technical instruction in the schools? A. Nothing except what comes incidentally in connection with the prescribed studies, styled useful knowledge.

Q. Have you apart from the common schools any schools giving technical education? A. None, except the Art School, where the subject of drawing is taught. No manual training is given except drawing, painting, &c.

Q. Is that a Government institution? A. No; it was started by private enterprise, but it has some connection with the Government, as the Superintendent of Education is the president of the school and the mayor of the city is one of the directors, and the Government gives a grant of \$800 and the City Council gave \$3,000 towards the school. We expect an annual grant from the Government, but there is no further connection.

Q. Can you say whether any children of the class likely to become mechanics attend that school for the purpose of learning freehand drawing or other kinds of drawing? A. Yes; quite a number of them: I have the figures here. The school is established particularly for the benefit of such classes; however, they are expected to pay from \$3 to \$5 a year, according to the class in which they are taught, for three terms of three weeks of two lessons a week. The total number of pupils enrolled the first term was 227, of whom 65 are engaged in studying mechanical and architectural drawing for the purpose of improving themselves, either as mechanics or foremen; and there are in addition to that 52 younger pupils—children mostly—who are learning freehand drawing expecting to take up mechanical and architectural drawing. There are probably about 80 pupils studying for mechanical purposes in some sense or other.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Is the school law in the Province of Nova Scotia compulsory; does it make attendance at the schools compulsory? A. There is a law on the statute book which is optional with each section. If the trustees wish to put it in operation it makes the attendance compulsory for that section.

Q. What is the age at which it applies? A. Between the ages of 7 and 12. That law has not been utilized generally throughout the province.



Q. Has it been adopted in the city of Halifax? A. No. We had the opportunity but on account of the city government differing from other sections it could not be utilized. It has been utilized in a few sections, but wherever it has been adopted it has been dropped. It has to be voted upon every year. It was adopted in Dartmouth and a census was taken of the children, but it was never carried out. The next year it was dropped. In the sections the matter is decided at the annual meeting, but in the city of Halifax it is decided by the city council.

Q. How are the school trustees elected? A. They are elected in October of each year by a meeting of rate-payers called after five days' notice.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Are none of them appointed by the Government? A. Yes, the commissioners of schools in Halifax are appointed by the Government; in all small towns the schools are managed by a committee appointed by the councils.

Q. How many members are there on the school board? A. In the city of Halifax there are 12, six appointed by the Governor in Council and six appointed by the city council.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Have you any knowledge of children under the age of twelve working in the factories? A. No; I have no specific knowledge of it, though I believe there are some.

Q. Is the attendance of children of laboring men at the schools regular? A. No; it is very irregular. We have a bill before the Legislature now providing for the appointment of a truant officer in the city and for compulsory education, which we think will be found very complete.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Will that be subject to local option? A. No; it will apply only to the city of Halifax.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. How can you trace the causes of absence of children? A. Only by the reports of the teachers who are to enquire as much as possible into the causes of absence.

Q. Are the teachers permitted to sell school books and supplies? A. There is nothing to prevent them from doing so.

Q. Is it done? A. Only to a very limited extent.

Q. Is it done with the authority of the board? A. No; there has never been any rule on the subject.

Q. Have you any knowledge where the books used in the schools are published? A. I have very little knowledge as to how the books are gotten up or the cost. I have considered their contents and their usefulness as schools books, but I know almost nothing about them otherwise.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Who generally prints the books published in Halifax? A. I think a considerable number are published by A. & W. McKinlay.

Q. Those books, I understand, can be printed by any publisher? A. Yes; except in cases where some particular persons hold copyrights, in which cases they could claim a percentage.

Q. Boys passing the eighth grade in what position are they to go out into the world; how far advanced are they? A. I think they have a very good training so far as a literary training is concerned. Of course it depends largely on the school and the method of training. It is a very good start so far as that is concerned, but I think more manual training would be useful, and more attention to drawing. So far

as reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, grammar and history are concerned I think they are as well equipped as in any part of the world.

Q. What proportion of children leave school after passing the eighth grade? A. I could scarcely tell you. We have 6,000 children in the common schools and 200 in the County Academy. We might add 100 more to the 200 and say 300 out of 6,000.

Q. Have you given the subject of technical education any special study? A. I have read all that I could see on the subject and have visited some technical schools.

Q. Have you an opinion as to how far that education should go and what branches should be taught? A. I think technical training should be given, and I am of that opinion for two reasons: first, I think it will afford as valuable a mental training as any one subject, considering simply its benefits as a strengthener of the mind; in the second place, I think it would have a tendency to divert the attention of young men from the professions which are now over-crowded and give them a better idea of manual labor and more respect for it, and would be a greater benefit to the country in encouraging manufactures. I would not have special technical training in the schools for purposes connected with any particular trade; I would depend on a broad and general training. I would provide special technical schools for special trades outside the schools of the province, but I think that in our academy there should be a department in which boys would work four hours a week at carpenter work. That is as far as I think we should go in Halifax in the direction of manual training.

Q. You think the present system has a tendency towards professionalism? A. I think it has, but I think the tendency that way is less than it formerly was. The tendency in the Province is the other way now, so far as I can judge. I think the time is not far distant when we will have a training school.

Q. Have you a night school for boys and girls? A. We have had, during the past winter, four.

Q. Have they been free? A. Yes; they were supported by the board. There have been a few also supported by benevolent societies.

Q. How have they resulted? A. I can scarcely say that they have been a success. The attendance would begin with three or four at times, what could be kept up, and we found that it scarcely paid to open them.

Q. Were they open to any one making application for admittance? A. They are open to any resident of the city of Halifax. I do not think any person applied who was not a resident, but the board claims the right to make any outsider pay.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. What branches are covered by the eighth grade? A. Reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, history, grammar, drawing, and a little algebra. I think that includes about all. Latin is optional.

Q. Is any Euclid taught? A. No.

Q. Do you not think it has a tendency to open a boy's mind for mechanical pursuits? A. Yes; but I think that should go in connection with manual training. They should supplement each other and throw light on each other.

Q. Is there no Euclid taught in any of the common schools? A. There is a little, but it is not required. In the academy and in St. Patrick's school it is taught.

Q. At what grade do the children of the working classes usually leave school? A. Some leave at the fourth grade, and a large number at the seventh grade, and a good many at the sixth grade.

Q. What salary is paid to the teachers? A. It varies very much. The highest salary paid is \$1,600.

Q. What is the average salary paid to teachers in the common schools? A. The average salary for males is, I think, about \$460. The average salary for females would be about \$370.



Q. What grade of certificate must a woman possess to command a salary of \$370. Those having grade B licenses begin with \$300, and if they are successful and receive a favorable report, they get an increase of \$30 a year for five years. At the end of that time their salaries become \$450, and remain at that. If a female teacher has extra charges, such as principal of a school, she may get \$500 or \$550, but the regular salary is from \$300 to \$450. A teacher holding a grade C license gets from \$250 to \$400, according to the time of service and the reports as to efficiency.

Q. What is the highest salary paid to a female teacher in the common schools?  
A. The highest salary paid to a female teacher is \$750.

Q. Do the licenses of teachers run out? A. No; they hold them during good conduct.

Q. Do you know the books of the Royal Reader series that Nelson & Son publish? A. Yes; but some of the books that used to be published by those publishers or other publishers may now be published by McKinlay. For instance he now publishes an edition of Gray's "How Plants grow."

Q. Do you not think that if the books used were published in the province the parents of children could get them cheaper? A. I don't know much about it; but I do not think it possible with the limited sale that we have, that it would be worth while to publish the books here. Some of the books, used such as the Royal Readers, command a large sale in several of the provinces as well as in England and Australia, and I cannot see how it could pay to publish them here.

Q. Did you ever consult any of the printing establishments about it? A. No. One or two booksellers consulted me, but I had little information to give them.

Q. Do you know if any class of the community, say the working class, withdraw their children from school through not having the means to keep them properly clothed and not having the means to buy books? A. I have reason to believe that a large number of children who attend school are prepared for doing so by charitable associations, and that a large number who are taken away from school are not able to continue any longer, or think they are not.

Q. Do you think there would be a larger proportion of the children of the working classes in attendance at school if the books were free—purchased by the Government or the municipality? A. I do not think it would make much difference; it would, of course, make some. I think poverty strikes chiefly in the matter of clothing, and the necessity for earning something to contribute to the support of the other members of the family. The whole outfit of books required to pass through the common schools does not amount to more than \$5 or \$6, extending over a period of five, six or seven years, or from the time a child is five years old until he is thirteen.

Q. Are any of the text books used compiled in the province? A. A few of them are.

Q. Where are the others compiled? A. Nelson's series would be compiled, I think, in the British Islands. "How Plants Grow" was compiled in the United States.

Q. There is more in that book about the plants of the United States than about those of Nova Scotia, is there not? A. No; we think that is the book best adapted to our own climate of any published.

Q. Don't you think as good a text book could be got up in this province that would give more knowledge of Canadian history? A. It would be difficult to get as good a writer to prepare one and the demand would be so limited that no firm could publish it.

Q. What is your opinion in that respect in regard to histories; what histories do you use? A. We use a history compiled in this province, and a history of British America, of which Mr. Calkin of Truro is the author. We regard the latter as an excellent book and the former as a tolerably good book, except that it is rather too difficult for the common schools; it is considered a very good book for high schools.

Q. You say the ventilation in the schools is only fair? A. I say in some of the schools it is. Taking it all in all, it is about as good as I have seen anywhere, and I



have visited schools in Ontario and the United States, but as I have said, great improvement has been made in this respect in buildings recently erected.

Q. Is there any occasion during the summer to limit the school hours on account of bad ventilation or want of space? A. I think the health of the children would be better, if there was a system of ventilation that would be automatic, and would not require the attention of the teacher. I think the children suffer in many rooms for want of such a system.

Q. Are any dismissed before the usual school hours on that account? A. I think not.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. You say there are 200 pupils in the Academy? A. Yes; the number varies; at present there are 178 in attendance; there may be more than 200 enrolled.

Q. How many of these would be likely to become farmers? A. Almost none.

Q. What becomes of them? A. They look for situations in stores and banks, and a few enter the professions; that is a very few. In Halifax they mostly look for situations. A considerable number expect to become mechanics; probably 25 per cent. of them. I think that if we had a manual training school, a much larger number would look forward to become foremen and master mechanics.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Are the children examined when they are advanced from one class to another? A. They are generally examined by the teacher of the department in which they have been taught, under the supervision of the principal.

Q. Did you ever know of cases where children were qualified to be advanced and were unable to get into the higher department on account of want of accommodation? A. No; the pressure is altogether in the primary departments.

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S. M. BROOKFIELD, builder and contractor; sworn.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. You are a builder and contractor, Mr. Brookfield? A. I am.

Q. What length of experience have you had in this business? A. About 22 years.

Q. You have been engaged on a great many buildings in and around the city of Halifax? A. Yes; I have had contracts of various kinds.

Q. At the present time, or within the last three years, what is about the average number of journeymen you have employed, or what number of men have you employed of any kind, leaving out laborers? A. I should think about 100, leaving out laborers.

Q. How many laborers have you employed? A. Sometimes we have had 300 and sometimes 200.

Q. Do you include the dry dock in that? A. Yes; I include the dry dock in the 300.

Q. As a general rule what are the wages in your shop of skilled mechanics—say carpenters? A. We pay bench hands \$1.75.

Q. Have you rates below that? A. Yes.

Q. What would be the lowest? A. I can hardly tell.

Q. Does it vary much from \$1.75? A. It would be \$1.60 to \$1.75.

Q. Give us the wages of those engaged on stone work? A. They get \$2.50.

Q. That would be the general rate of wages? A. Yes.

Q. How many of those on an average do you employ? A. Well, it is hard to say. It is altogether according to the contracts. We have 40 to 50 bricklayers, masons and stone cutters.

Q. What wages do you pay laborers who assist men of that class? A. They run from \$1 to \$1.25. They average \$1.10 about.

Q. That includes plasterers and all? A. We do not call them laborers.

Q. Would the average wages paid the masons and bricklayers include plasterers? A. Yes.

Q. How many months in the year do you think bricklayers are employed? A. They are employed eight to nine months outside, eight months very often and sometimes nine months.

Q. As a general rule how do you find your men; do you find them fairly average as regards industry and sobriety? A. Some are not as good workmen as others; they are a sober class of men.

Q. Have you ever had any labor troubles with your men? A. No.

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EDWIN GILPIN, inspector of mines, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Give us an idea with regard to the extent and working of the gold fields? A. Gold is mined all along the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia. Every few miles there are places where the veins have been brought to the surface. The whole extent of the country that contains the quartz vein is 3,000 square miles. There are about 12 principal places where gold is mined at the present time, most of which are to the eastward of Halifax, along the shore. With a few exceptions all are accessible by roads or within a short distance of harbors on the coast. We have returns which are fairly complete, and last year there were 21,211 ounces of gold returned to us as produced at the different mines. That was taken from 22,280 tons of quartz that was mined. There were 172,443 days labor. It is impossible to give the exact number of people engaged in mining, for the miners have the habit of moving from one district to another according as there is work, and as the veins fall off in productiveness at any place the number of men would be decreased. I might say the days labor represents the average of nine men employed in connection with the mines as laborers and miners and mill-men.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What machinery is used to crush the ore? A. Stamps. Each mill contains one or more batteries. The batteries are large cast iron boxes with rods and weights which are lifted by a cam and rise and fall.

Q. Is the quartz all hard quartz? A. Yes; it is all hard. There is a small amount of slate crushed, but three-fourths of the stuff crushed is hard.

Q. The primitive methods such as the arrastra would not be available here? A. There were objections to them. That is better adapted to silver mining, but the quartz here is entirely too hard and the weather is against it in winter. Besides there is a good deal of arsenic in the quartz, and when they roasted it to drive off the silver, it made the arsenic spread over the whole of the gold.

Q. What depth are the mines carried to here? A. The deepest was 650 feet, but that mine was abandoned.

Q. Why was it abandoned, because of heat or because it was unprofitable? A. The vein got too thin at that depth to work, and the machinery also began to get inadequate.

Q. Do the mines as a rule require cribbing? A. No; the walls are very strong and easily supported. The shafts are almost invariably sunk in the veins themselves, so that on two sides they are formed of the natural bed.

Q. Are accidents from caving in frequent? A. No; they are very rare.

Q. Can you give us an idea of the average wages paid to miners? A. The best miners get \$1.50 a day. I suppose the average would be about \$1.30.

Q. Is there a plentiful supply of labor at these wages? A. It is plentiful except during the harvest and fishing seasons. Then I believe there is some trouble.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Are there any children employed? A. There are very few employed about the gold mines. When they are employed it is as drivers, but no children are employed under ground. The work there is altogether beyond their strength.

Q. How does the quantity of gold taken from the quartz here compare with that taken from quartz in the United States? A. The comparison is very favorable to our quartz here. The average here is \$19 to the ton, whereas in Australia and the Black Hills it would not run more than \$3.50 to \$5.00 to the ton. I may mention one mine here, the Salmon River mine, which works a vein of quartz from three to twelve feet thick, which has yielded since it was opened, six years ago, 27,000 ounces from 55,000 tons of quartz, an average value of \$10 a ton.

Q. How many persons would be employed in that mine? A. During the twelve months of 1887 there were 86 to 131 men employed there. They make no return of the actual number of men employed but they return the number of days labor for the month, and dividing that by 25 we approximate the number of men, but, of course, it is not an exact return.

Q. What number of hours a day are these men supposed to work? A. Nearly ten hours; that is supposed to be the regular time, but it is practically less than that.

Q. Did you ever know of men going into this work of mining as laboring men and finally becoming owners of mines? A. Yes; a large number of men who have charge of mines or are owners commenced by working themselves in the mines. A man who has obtained a knowledge of mining in that way will go prospecting, and if he comes across a rich lead of quartz he will get some one to advance money and work it on shares. He would take charge of the mine and work with the men while the man who advanced the money would share with him. Perhaps his next venture would be on his own responsibility.

Q. Is there a system of licenses in force here? A. Any man can procure a prospecting license covering ground not exceeding 100 acres in extent. You can get that for a period of six months by paying \$5 for the first ten acres and 25 cents for each succeeding acre. A piece of ground covering 20 acres can be secured for a period of six months by paying \$7.50 and if the holder wishes to renew the license for another period of six months he can do so by paying half the original amount.

Q. Without working it? A. We do not ask any questions about that; he takes it on chance. While he holds a license he can apply for a lease of the ground or any part of it. For that he pays \$2 an acre; the lease extending over 21 years.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Does he make only one payment of \$2 an acre? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. At the end of 21 years is the lease renewable at the same rate? A. Yes.

Q. Is there any chance of parties becoming owners? A. No; the lands are only leased; no mineral lands are sold.

Q. What about lands granted by the Crown? A. The gold is reserved to the Crown in all cases, and the Government in licenses gives power to the holder to enter on all lands not under cultivation or built upon, in which cases there must be an order from the Governor in Council before an entry can be made.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. From what country does the quicksilver used come? A. I think most of it comes from California. The two principal sources are Spain and California.



CHARLES G. CREELMAN, of J. A. Leaman & Co., victuallers, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. You have been sometime in the cattle trade have you not ? A. Yes.

Q. Is that independent of the butcher business ; I men the exporting business, you have had to do with that ? A. Yes ; something.

Q. To what extent ? A. I connected myself some five or six years ago with a company and exported some five hundred head of cattle to Liverpool and other parts of Great Britain.

Q. Did you find it a profitable investment ? A. No ; it was a losing speculation.

Q. Can you give us the reason for your loss ? A. There are different markets in the old country and the cattle required for the Liverpool market are of a different class from those required for the London market, and there is a different class again required for the Glasgow market and our country will not give us a sufficient number of each class to ship to each place to make a market.

Q. Which market did you strike, the Liverpool or the London ? A. Both.

Q. What kind of cattle do they require at Liverpool and London ? A. Liverpool will take a coarser grade. The cattle for London must be larger and finer.

Q. Is that the whole extent of your speculation in shipping ? A. Yes.

Q. The cattle of the province, as regards the production of beef cattle, are they improving or deteriorating ? A. I think they are improving the grades and the breed of the cattle.

Q. With regard to the beef itself, is there an advance in the price or otherwise ? A. At this season of the year cattle advance a little in price.

Q. But, taken as a whole, has the price advanced or gone backwards ? A. I do not know that there has been much variation. Cattle cost about the same.

Q. In our province here have we presumably a supply for all our demands ? A. Yes.

Q. Do we produce more than our necessities require so that we could sell for shipment ? A. No ; if they make the cattle the right quality we have none too many.

Q. Are we able to raise more cattle than we do at present so as to compete with others ? A. Yes ; I think the prices we pay the farmers make it a paying business for them.

Q. Under ordinary circumstances it would pay the dealer well enough ? A. Yes.

Q. What parts of the country here are most remarkable for supplying good beef ? A. King's county produces the best beef in the province.

Q. Do you ever bring cattle down here from other provinces ? A. Yes.

Q. Where do you get them from ? A. In 1887 I brought two car loads down from Montreal to fill a contract, and this Easter we brought a car load from Ontario.

Q. From what part of Ontario ? A. Principally from Guelph.

Q. Where did you get the cattle you used for shipment ? A. From all parts of the province, King's, Colchester, Hants, Annapolis, and we got some in Sackville, N.B.

Q. Have we any custom in this country of feeding cattle on the refuse from breweries ? A. Not that I am aware of.

Q. Do cattle fed in that way compare favorably with grass fed cattle ? A. I cannot say from experience, but I should not think the quality of the beef would be equal to that of grass fed cattle.

Q. Have the past five years been fairly successful to farmers with regard to the raising of cattle and the prices received ? A. The prices have been a little low during the past few years, but the prospects, I think, are better for the future. Cattle are scarcer, and the prices have an upward tendency.

Q. How are the European markets ? A. They would not permit us to ship cattle over.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What do you pay per pound for cattle on the hoof ? A. They cost from \$3 to \$9 a hundred dressed. We usually buy at so much a pair or a head.

Q. Have the prices advanced? A. No.

Q. Are there many large areas in Nova Scotia which are unfit for agricultural purposes, but which would make good grazing land? A. No.

Q. For how long in the winter season is it necessary to feed cattle? A. About six or seven months; that is, cattle that we are making into beef.

Q. Have you good grazing during the summer, or does the grass dry up? A. In Cornwallis the dykes are dry all summer.

Q. Can you ship sheep from Nova Scotia to Great Britain? A. There have been shipments made, but I don't think with profit. I think the sheep were from Prince Edward Island.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Grass-fed cattle, are they as good to ship as stall-fed cattle? A. The stall-fed cattle will not stand the fatigue as well.

Q. Do you know whether the export of cattle from South America has any effect on the export from the Dominion? A. I do not know personally, but I should think it would have a tendency that way, as it would tend to reduce prices.

Q. What would be a paying price for cattle in Liverpool? A. You would require to get \$13 or \$14 per hundred.

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W. B. MCSWEENEY, Secretary of the Chandler Electric Co., sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Are you agent of the Electric Light Company? A. No; I am a director, secretary and a stockholder.

Q. How many hands have you employed here; that is skilled hands? A. We have had men employed digging holes and stringing wire, but they are ordinary laborers.

Q. How many of those have you in your employ? A. We had between 30 and 40 for three months.

Q. Who are your skilled men? A. We have a superintendent, three carbon men, two night patrol men and three dynamo men. Usually we have three or four men for general work. We have two line men. Then we have a lot of men working at the station under contract.

Q. How many have you? A. I do not know exactly. About 12, I suppose.

Q. What would be the average wages of those men, the carbon men, the line men and the patrol men? A. About \$8 or \$10 a week.

Q. Taking the other classes what would their wages average? A. From \$1.10 to \$1.40 a day.

Q. What hours are these men supposed to work? A. The carbon men work in the day time putting carbons in the lamps. The dynamo men and the patrol men work all night.

Q. Are they expected to work during the day? A. No; they have no work to do during the day.

Q. What work are the other men at? A. They are all at day work.

Q. What do they consider a day's work, 10 hours? A. Well, their work varies. It would not exceed 10 hours. On moonlight nights the carbon men do not work, unless it is rainy or foggy, and the dynamo men do not work either then.

Q. Have you the whole of your line completed now according to your contract with the city? A. I judge that it is about completed.

Q. Does it work fairly satisfactory? A. Well, the lamps were made in Ontario and we do not consider that they are as well made as American lamps. We have had a good deal of trouble with them.

Q. Do you expect to remedy that? A. We expect the company to remedy it.

Q. Is there anything you know to prevent this company from giving as good a light as any other? A. The system is as good as any.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. The lamps are the only drawback? A. That is all that we find.

Q. Do you employ a competent electrician? A. Yes.

Q. What salary does he get? A. \$1,500 a year.

Q. Is he supposed to be on hand all night? A. He is supposed to be there whenever he is wanted.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Have you had any accidents? A. We had a water wheel made at Port Perry, Ontario, and it burst after slight service.

Q. Is the company connected in any way with the gas company? A. Not in the slightest; the two companies are antagonistic.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How many hours at night are the lamps lighted? A. They are supposed to be lighted from dusk to daylight.

Q. What is the charge for the light? A. It is  $22\frac{1}{2}$  cents per light.

Q. Do you use water power? A. We did for a week but the wheel burst and we use steam now.

Q. What do you get per annum for each light? A. We get \$67.

Q. Do you run your lights every night? A. We run them every dark night. We do not light up on moon-light nights, but it is discretionary with the city official, the superintendent of the fire alarm telegraph, when we shall light up.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is the light cheaper than gas? A. We have not settled that yet. The same lights in American cities cost from \$167 to \$255 for the same light that we furnish for \$67.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How does your light compare in point of price with Boston? A. Boston I think is a little over \$200. \$172 is the lowest of any of them.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. How many hours do you furnish light for  $22\frac{1}{2}$  cents? A. All night.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have you had any complaints with regard to the light from those in authority? A. Well, the president of the Gas Company is on the City Board of Works and he complains a good deal.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. When the number of lights increases in the city will that decrease the price any? A. It should some.

Q. Do you think it will? A. I don't think so because the price is now the lowest of any in America except one or two.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Is there any particular reason why the prices are so low here compared with other places; is there any advantage that you have? A. No; it is altogether due to competition,

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Does the company find it profitable? A. We have not declared a dividend yet. We have great hopes.



Q. How many lights do you supply ? A. Over 180.

Q. Is the light used by any private corporations ? A. There are none in the city using it except two that the Local Government have.

Q. Do the Government pay the same price as the city ? A. They do not use the light all night.

Q. What is the power of your light ? A. It is 1,200 candle power.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Is not your fuel cheaper here ? A. No ; I think not.

Q. What does it cost you ? A. We have the power hired ; we do not pay for coal. Soft coal retails at present, I think, at \$5.75.

Q. Do you intend to have your water power going again ? A. Yes ; we are building a station now. We have a steam engine of 125 horse power that we got from Canada, that is from Toronto.

Q. Where are you building your station ? A. At Hosterman's at the North-West Arm. We expect to have 400 horse power including both steam and water, and to have it going in a month. We have just bought a 650 light dynamo for incandescent lights, the price of which in the United States was over \$5,000. We have 60 miles of wire and 1,000 posts.

Q. How does that compare with the other company ? A. They only lighted two or three streets ; we extend from Point Pleasant Park to Richmond, and out to the North-West Arm. Our circuit is six miles long and three wide.

Q. Do you expect to increase the number of lights within that radius ? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any opinion to express as to what the citizens think about it ? Do they consider it an advantage to have the city so well lighted ? A. The city is very large and scattered and the territory covered by the gas company previously was limited ; we cover six times as much territory now. All the territory outside that lit by gas was previously lit by oil lamps which went out before dark, and I think the people in the outskirts are much pleased with the change. They never had any light before and it is only natural to expect that they would be.

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GEORGE E. FRANCKLYN, of Cunard & Co., steamship owners and agents, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Please give the Commission, in your own words, a statement as to the trade of the port of Halifax ; the number of steamships arriving per week, the outgoing vessels ; and generally as to the steamship business with which you are connected ? A. We represent the Allan steamships here ; we did represent the Bermuda boats, but they have stopped. The Allan steamships come here once every fortnight in the winter time ; the Dominion boats come alternately. That is every other week. In the summer time the Allan steamers come once every fortnight, and the Dominion boats don't come at all. As to the number of men we employ that depends upon the quantity of freight to be landed. The number of men we employ on an ordinary ship averages from 50 to 80 hands in discharging it.

Q. What would be the number of dollars that would represent ? A. The men get 20 cents an hour for day work, and 25 cents for night work and they earn all the way from \$4 to \$7 on one steamer, and have the rest of the week to earn anything else where they can. We pay \$1.50 a day to the man on the wharf for day's work.

Q. Are you not also agents for other steamships casually coming into the port ? A. Yes ; as for instance the "Netherland" which came in here the other day.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Are there other lines of steamers coming into Halifax for which you are agents? A. Yes; there is the Dominion Line once a fortnight; the Furness Line which Pickford & Black are the agents. These sometimes come once a fortnight once in three weeks. There are two of them; the "Damara" and the "Ulund". The Anchor line steamers come in here occasionally, but not very often of years.

Q. When did the boat going to Bermuda and Jamaica knock off? A. A year last June; I mean June of 1886.

Q. Are there any steamships going to the West Indies from here? A. None.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. According to your idea, in the near future is there a chance of having Bermuda boats on again, or some other kind of boats? A. It will depend entirely upon the action of the Canadian Government and the home authorities.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. The business to Bermuda is not very considerable? A. No.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Does the French Consular agency bring you in any French vessels? No; when French vessels come in here, they may make a visit but that is all. Talking of French vessels I would say that this winter we had two or three French vessels come in here which go to Quebec in the summer time; the Bosphoria line. In addition to the steamers I have already spoken of, there is one that runs from here to St. Pierre, and also steamers to New York every fortnight, and St. John's, Newfoundland; also the Boston steamers once a week.

Q. How many steamers of your own have you running at the present time? A. Of the Allan boats there is the "Newfoundland" and the "Acadian," colliers and of the Liverpool ships the steamer "Delta" which goes wherever she can get employment. The "Alpha" and the "Beta" are lying up at the wharf and have been doing nothing these 18 months. Those two were the old Bermuda and Jamaica boats.

Q. Is there anything further that you can inform us on that you think would be of interest to the Commission? A. Not that I know of.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Can you tell us whether the ship laborers are constantly employed in port or not? A. Yes; of late years they have had pretty constant employment especially in the winter time, on account of there being more steamships coming here instead of going up to the St. Lawrence in the summer.

Q. Do the agents, owners or merchants here hire the men for such work, or is it done through a stevedore? A. Through a stevedore. With us we have a head stevedore, and the men are all paid by the firm at the end of the week. Our head stevedore engages the men, but they all get paid by us at the end of the week Thursday evening.

Q. You only pay the men when they are employed? A. That is all.

Q. But sometimes the men experience a good deal of broken time, don't they? A. Yes; sometimes they do, but not of late years from the number of steamships coming in.

Q. What is the average earnings of a ship laborer in the course of a year? I have known some men to earn \$12, \$13 and \$14 a week; then they may be a week or two idle; it depends wholly upon the steamships coming in.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. Does your plan of hiring a stevedore and he employing the laborers, you paying them, work better than having a stevedore and letting him deal with the men? A. I do not know whether it is better or not, but we have always paid the men ourselves; we do not leave it to the stevedore at all. He takes on who he likes, checks their time, and that is given in to the office.

Q. Do you give the stevedore so much a day? A. No; a regular salary.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Do you think it possible to do away with stevedores? A. Hardly.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Your stevedore is a kind of foreman? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Has there ever been any accident about your place in regard to the loading or unloading of vessels? A. There have been one or two accidents occasionally from things slipping, but not from anything breaking or giving away. A man was working on the wharf the other day, which was slippery, and he dislocated his shoulder through falling. He was hauling at the time he slipped and fell.

Q. Has your stevedore charge of the gear? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever known of this to get broken? A. No; not during the 20 years I have been there.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. Are there any ship laborers in your employ who are competent to do the work of a stevedore? A. Yes; I dare say there might be one or two.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do your men have to work at night? A. Frequently; a good deal of our work is at night.

Q. What is the greatest number of hours they are employed to work? A. If they commence to work on Sunday at midnight they may work till Tuesday morning; that is about the longest I have known of them to work.

Q. If they should consider these hours too long and should remain away for the purpose of getting necessary rest, would they be employed by you again? A. It just depends. We would give the preference naturally to those men who stuck and worked on—we might have to take them.

Q. Would they have an opportunity of getting other men in their places if they found their strength giving out? A. I do not think there would be any trouble about that.

Q. Do you find any fault with a man if after he has worked as many hours as he thought proper, to put a substitute in his place? A. Certainly not; no one would complain of that.

Q. Do you pay extra for night work? A. Yes; 25 cents an hour at night and 20 cents in the day.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you know what is the rate paid per hour at Portland? A. No; I do not.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. At what hour does the night commence, and when does it close in the morning? A. We commence the night after 6 o'clock. The men come back at 7 and work till six in the morning.



E. H. KEATING, City Engineer, sworn and examined.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Can you give us any information as to the condition of tenement houses in this city? A. None whatever.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Not about the houses? A. None whatever.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. In the case of the bad sanitary condition of one of the houses would it not affect a second one contiguous to it? A. I suppose it would if it was very close to it.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. You are the city engineer and engineer of the sewers as well? A. Yes; for the construction of the sewers.

Q. Have you anything to do in connection with the water? A. Yes; I am engineer of the water works also.

Q. Tell the Commission in what manner the ordinary houses enter the sewer and the way it is attached to it; whether there is any fee payable by the people wishing to enter the sewer? A. Where there is an old sewer there is no fee; they simply make application to the Board of Works to open the streets and put in a drain pipe. If there is a new sewer to be laid the property is charged for it on its frontage.

Q. What is the fee per foot? A. \$1.25 a foot. That is the regular sewage fee. That is a charge against the property. Before the sewer can be tapped, the foreman of the works looks to see that the proper connections are made before it is covered up. In fact he looks to see that everything is all right.

Q. Does the city lay the pipe into the sill of the house? A. No; the drain pipe is laid entirely by the owner of the property.

Q. Under the supervision of the engineer? A. Under the supervision of the foreman; he is under the supervision of the department, and as I said, he will see it properly covered up.

Q. On any water pipes entering private residences or stores, do you charge a fee for entrance in the same mode as the other? A. No; it is entirely different. The main pipe is not laid in the street, unless it will pay a certain percentage on the cost of carrying out the whole work.

Q. That, I suppose, is done on the recommendation of the engineer—it is referred to him? A. No; it is referred to me. It generally happens in this way; a petition is sent in by the people residing in a certain district or street, asking for a water pipe to be laid in the street; I then inquire, or cause inquiries to be made, to ascertain whether it will pay or not. I then get the rateable value of the houses, the cost of the work, and other necessary information, and if I find that it will pay 5 per cent.—to which the rate has been lately reduced—it was more formerly—the work will be done.

Q. Is there any person in this city whose duty it is to see that the sewers are properly laid in the houses—is there a law which makes it compulsory on persons entering the sewer? A. There is a clause in the city laws by which the Board of Works can order private drains to be laid from private residences to the sewer.

Q. Is it the duty of any particular person to see that each house enters the sewer? A. No.

Q. You cannot tell us whether the generality of the tenement houses—that is houses which have one, two and three families living in them—whether many of these houses have sewers into the premises or not? A. I cannot tell you; there are health inspectors whose duty it is to look after these places and make a general inspection of the city; they will be able to tell you about the sanitary condition of these places.

Q. I suppose the Board of Works give you permission to hire and discharge men? A. Nominally it is done through me; but I do not employ them.

Q. Do you employ many men? A. We employ a large number.

Q. You do not employ them, you say? A. Well it is through me that it is done.

Q. Then about what wages do you pay your foreman? A. We have two classes of foremen, a temporary foreman and a permanent foreman. The permanent foreman gets \$880 a year.

Q. And the temporary foreman, what does he get? A. \$10 a week.

Q. Do you work 10 hours in the day? A. Yes.

Q. And work till 5 o'clock on Saturday afternoon, I suppose? A. No; 6 o'clock. The men generally work half an hour at dinner time so as to let them get off at 5.30 that day. That is a rule they adopt if they like.

Q. Does the city conduct its own work, or does it give its work out by contract? I mean as regards sewers? A. By both; contract and day's work. Last year we did it by day's work in preference to contract. For myself I prefer the day's work plan. It is the better system of working.

Q. Do you use concrete bottoms in the sewers here, and if you do, how do they last? A. I have only used them two years, so cannot say; but I do not see why they should not last. In fact, I am now using them altogether myself.

Q. Where do you get them from? A. We used to get them from the shops, but now we get them made by the men in the poor asylum.

Q. Is that all the work they do out here? A. No; they do other work. They break stones and other things.

Q. I suppose this work is given to the poorhouse men, to find employment for the people in aid of it? A. It was given to the poorhouse by my recommendation, because I thought the labor there might be used to advantage in that way.

Q. I suppose you think those paupers should get as much work as they can do? A. I certainly think they should be employed.

Q. You do not think they should be kept in idleness, doing nothing? A. I do not.

Q. Then, as regards the putting down of the sewers, you do not employ any contract work? A. Hardly any.

Q. But you have done so? A. Yes; in the past.

Q. In putting these down, where it is done by contract work, did the contractor use iron pipe? A. I have never done any of that work by contract; in fact, we have laid very few crock pipes.

Q. Well, in putting down the water pipes by contract, I suppose you have done some of your work in that way? A. No; all by day's work.

Q. All by day work? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you find the work, when done by day labor and under your own supervision, better; not as liable to be scamped as work done by contractors? A. That is my experience. I prefer to have my work done by day labor. I find it the best and then there is no disposition on the part of the men to scamp the work. They do not hurry on with it.

Q. Is there not a tendency, on the part of the contractors, to scamp the work? A. I do not want to class them all alike, but I have known work to be scamped.

Q. What kind of corporation work is given out to contract generally? A. Well, some works have been given out; different kind of works, such as streets at times, but the great bulk of the work has all been done by day's work.

Q. What is the lowest rate of wages for a laborer on corporation work? A. Ten cents an hour, or a dollar a day.

Q. How often are the men paid? A. Every week.

Q. Do the men ever have to go without their pay when the appropriation is exhausted? A. Not of late years. I have known them to remain without their pay for some weeks, but that was some years ago.

Q. More care is taken of the appropriation now? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. The pipes which are put down for the water works, where do they come from? A. They are made here; they are cast here. The last ones were made by Symonds, in Dartmouth.

Q. Did you find them successful when they were imported formerly? A. Yes; we have had imported pipes, but now they are made under a specification here and have to stand a certain test.

Q. Is there not some other person in the province making these pipes? A. Yes; we have had pipes made by one of the foundries here, and I think that in Yarmouth, Burrell, Johnston & Co. make them; I also think that the Londonderry Company are making preparations to turn out pipes in large quantities; at least so I have heard.

Q. The principal sewers put down here, what are they made off? A. Bricks.

Q. What is their capacity; what would be their dimensions? A. From six feet in diameter down to the egg shape 12 by 14; that is the smallest size built here now.

Q. They are all brick? A. Well, some are circular sewers, stone, and some of the egg shape sewers are brick as well as stone.

Q. How many miles of sewers have you got in this city—public main sewers? A. I should think we have about 25 or 26 miles.

Q. In building these sewers by contract—say a sewer 14 by 21—about what would it cost per foot? A. It would vary a good deal according to the locality it was in and the depth of rock excavation. If it was rock excavation nine and a half feet deep it would cost \$3 I think, on an average, for a running foot. Of course, if it was simply earth work the cost would be very much cheaper.

Q. The cheapest, I suppose, would be \$2, or \$2.25 a foot? A. Possibly including man holes and everything connected with the work it would amount to that sum.

JAMES. W. FLEMING, Keeper Poor Asylum, sworn and examined.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Have you many people in that building of which you have charge? A. Three hundred and five on the 1st day of this month.

Q. Are these people incapable of earning their own living wholly or in part? A. The exact proportion not able to earn anything I could not tell, but there is a large number able to earn their own living in part, and some if employed carefully will earn their living there; but they are not fit to turn out into the world to get their living outside. Of those able to obtain a living outside, I do not think we have more than two or three men.

Q. How is this institution supported? A. The city has it all now.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Altogether? A. Altogether.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Are the inmates of this poor house drawn entirely from the city? A. Not all, but the Province supports their transient paupers there.

Q. Since when has the city had charge? A. The city has had full control since the 1st of July, 1886; before that time the Province had the management of it.

Q. What was the cost of maintaining the people in the house? A. I do not know the exact cost, but we were charging the Province 25 cents a day for theirs.

Q. How much do you have voted to you by the City Council? A. I think the appropriation is in the neighborhood of \$20 each year.

Q. What mode or form have these people to go through to obtain admission? A. They simply represent their case to one of the acting aldermen, and he gets them



an order. There are six wards in the city, and for each ward there is one of their own number forming six of a committee, called the Charities Committee, and they apply to one of these for admission.

Q. Have you anything to do with outdoor relief to people? A. We do not do anything of that kind here in Halifax.

Q. What industry do you carry on in the house? A. We have never done much, except stone breaking, and this last year or two making concrete for the Board of Works for sewers; that is nothing more than making our own clothing, shoes, and so on. We also have some men working over in the General Provincial Hospital.

Q. Is there a farm connected with the poor house? A. Five or six acres; then we have a field of about the same rented.

Q. What portion of the inmates not able to earn their own living would be immigrants; that is people born in the old country? A. I have not counted that, but there are a great many foreigners. The Province had about eighty there that they were paying for themselves, and these would all be born outside of the Province.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Would any of these eighty be from the other Provinces? A. Sometimes.

Q. You know what we mean by "immigrants"; we mean people that have come out recently; are there any of these there? A. Sometimes a few.

Q. The majority of the 80 would be from the other places? A. The majority of the 80 would be from the old countries, and some of them would be pretty old people.

By Mr. WELSH:—

Q. But these people lived in the place a good while but never gained a residence; but as I understand it very few of what we call "immigrants" are there? A. Sometimes three or four.

Q. Have any lately reached the place? A. This winter we had a class called "stow-aways"—three or four—young lads who came out in the winter and we had them here for a while.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Have you got them now? A. No; not now.

By Mr FREED:—

Q. Have you many who remain there in the winter, but who do not apply for assistance in the summer? A. A good many.

Q. Are these men or women? A. Mostly men.

Q. Are you able to tell us what the food of each inmate costs per day? A. I never made that up; the auditor, I suppose, would know that more particularly as he has the accounts.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What proportional part of this 305 would be females? A. On the first day of April we had 70 men, 123 females and 12 children.

Q. What ages would the children be from? A. I think about nine or ten would be the oldest, down to one born on the 1st of April.

Q. Do you have many foundlings here in the institution? A. Not since the "Orphans Home" was established which took the youngest ones.

Q. How is it sustained? A. It is principally voluntary subscriptions and donations. They have an allowance from the city and I think also from the Government.

Q. Do you take small children who are left without parents who have resided in the city here, and do you keep them till they grow, to what age? A. Just as soon as we can get rid of them we do so.

Q. How do you put these children out? A. We bind them out to respectable people. In the first place if a man wants a boy or a girl he has to get the recommendation from the clergyman of whatever denomination he may be, and we give Roman Catholics to Roman Catholics and Protestants to Protestant people.

Q. I suppose you have services held in the Poors' Asylum on Sundays? A. Yes.

Q. And a teacher in the institution to teach the children? A. Not now.

Q. Do most of the children that grow up there have no education at all? A. We had a school there, but there has been so few to teach lately there is now none. The eight or nine there now have only been there this winter and they will go away in a few days.

Q. Tell us what was the number eight years ago? A. When I took charge of it first at that time there was about 250 men there, 150 women and 81 children, making 481; then they had a teacher, and there was over 40 children in the school.

Q. Then how do you account for the decrease in the number in the institution during the last eight years? A. There are different causes. About that time they were making a great deal of stir—that is those having the management of the place—to put these people in the proper districts which they were chargeable to.

Q. That is into each county or parish? A. Yes; people would come into the city that really belonged to other districts in the province, so the Government thought it cheaper to send the parties home to the old country that wanted to go—they thought it cheaper to send them home than to keep them; that is parties there is no prospect of staying outside and making a living for themselves.

Q. So you culled them out—those that belonged to the different counties and parishes were sent to their homes, and that made the decrease? A. Yes; part of it is that. It seems to me that now the disposition among this class of people is to have a little more ambition to make their own living, particularly when the weather gets warm.

Q. And the decrease in the number of children, did it come about in the same manner? A. Well, the "Infants' Home" takes them quicker now.

Q. There is a doctor in connection with the institution? A. Yes; he is not a resident doctor, but he visits at regular times.

Q. Are the clergymen attached to the institution paid a certain sum for the services rendered? A. Yes.

Q. What are the services held in the institution? A. We have a service at 8 o'clock on Sunday morning; one at 9.30, and another at 3 in the afternoon. And in connection with that part of the work if any person is sick who wishes a clergyman we send at once and get them one, and often we do so when not requested.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you feel any advantage in this building more particularly than the old one for comfort? A. Yes; it is very comfortable even in the coldest weather.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Have you any fire escape in connection with that building? A. Nothing but stairways at each end of the place.

Q. How many stories are there in the building? A. Three stories besides the basement.

Q. I suppose there is a large corridor with a number of cots on each side in the building? A. Yes.

Q. Don't you think it advisable to have a fire escape on the building? A. Well, I do not know.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. How do the doors open, outwards or inwards? A. Outwards; it appears as if we needed fire escapes fully as much as some buildings I have seen them on.

Q. Do you think it necessary they should be on there? A. There is some necessity for them to be on there.

By Mr. KELLY :

Q. That has never been up before the Board of Aldermen ; nobody called their attention to it, I suppose ? A. I think it has been mentioned, but I do not know anything very particular about it.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Are the means of escape on the present building any improvement to those in the building which was burned some years ago ? A. Yes ; I think they are. It is a clear way at each end of the wards, and then there is another down stairs at each end.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Do you find any patients there at any time dying who have any money or property of any kind ? A. Very seldom.

Q. Do they generally make people aware of it before they die so as to have their friends get it, or how do they manage that ? A. There has only been one that I have particularly in mind that was a helper there ; he was getting a kind of pay and his name had been off the books some seven or eight years and not therefore considered an inmate. Then there was one person there last year who had about \$25 and the relatives came in and got it so as to provide for the burial they said, and it was allowed that way and a coffin was bought with it.

Q. But if any have money relatives are generally found for it ? A. I do not know that they have many friends.

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THOMAS J. WALSH, master painter, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Please tell us the number of hands, including boys, that you employ, and the wages that you pay them ? A. On an average throughout the year we have, probably, 20 to 25 hands employed.

Q. How many of these are skilled painters ; that is men capable of graining or doing special work, apart from the general body of the workmen ? A. We have a grainer and a paper hanger employed, who are also good general workmen.

Q. Those two are specially for that purpose when they are required ? A. Yes ; of course, some of the other men are able to grain. At the present time we have two grainers and two paperhangers. Of course, some of the other men are capable of hanging paper. As a general rule in the trade here the paper hangers and grainers are good general workmen.

Q. But these men you speak of make a specialty of it ? A. Yes.

Q. What do you pay these principal hands of yours ? A. The general rate of wages here is \$10 a week. That rate was arranged by the Painters' Society some five or six years ago. We formerly used to pay these men \$12 a week, but at the time of the strike, some five or six years ago, the "Society" carried the poor man along with them. That is to say, the men who had formerly been getting \$8 a week, they made us pay them at the rate of \$10 a week. That is to say where we formerly paid inferior workmen only \$3 and the higher ones \$11 and \$12 a week, we now pay them all alike, \$10 a week.

Q. Do you find that your painters are, as a general rule, as good as formerly, that is to say, do you find the class of men you have now are as good painters as they formerly were ? A. Quite as good.

Q. What number of boys have you in your employ ? A. We have three apprentices.

Q. Are they indentured, or are they only incidental apprentices ? A. No ; they serve their full period of five years under indenture.

Q. Do you find that to be the best system to work on with apprentices ? A. Yes.



Q. Have you any men working for you who served their time with you? A. We have men in our establishment who have served their time with my father years ago.

Q. How many years have they been in the shop? A. Some of them, I think, 25 years.

Q. What wages do the boys get when they are apprenticed? A. \$1.50 a week and the last year \$4. At the end of their term they sometimes, and generally do, get from \$5 to \$5.50.

Q. Is there any rule as to the number of boys you may take on to a certain number of men; or anything of that kind? A. I think there is or was some rule of that kind in the painters' association. I should also say that we keep a paint, oil and glass establishment, and we have to keep a couple of boys attending in the shop; but I think three apprentices is the number allowed by the union outside of the shop boys.

Q. Do you feel it to be incumbent upon you to give the boys in your employ all the instruction necessary to fit them out to become good workmen when they have finished their time? A. We try to do so.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are there any sign-writers in Halifax? A. They are very scarce.

Q. What would be the weekly rate of wages that a good sign-writer who was kept busy would receive? A. In our establishment, a few years ago, we had a first-class workman, but since that time, although I have tried, I have not succeeded in getting another in yet. I have to get my lettering done now by job work. We have as good painters, paper hangers, and men, as good brush hands as are to be found in any city in the Dominion, but sign letterers are scarce.

Q. Are there no sign letterers at all here? A. There are good sign-writers in the city, but there is a scarcity of men in that line of business. There are sign letterers in other establishments.

Q. What would be the wages of a good sign-writer? A. We paid \$15 a week to the man I spoke of at the time he was employed by us.

Q. Formerly, what were the wages paid the men; were there different grades? A. Yes; \$12 for paper hangers and grainers; letterers get a special price generally; first-class hands with the brush received \$10, others \$9, and others again \$3 a week.

Q. When a boy goes to the business does he learn all the branches, such as painting, decorating, graining and paper hanging? A. He is supposed to. It depends a great deal upon the lad himself, whether he is smart or not. Some are not very ambitious, but we try to push them all along and teach them all the branches of the business.

Q. Is decorative painting a distinct branch of the business in Halifax? A. No; the decorative work is carried on by nearly all the establishments in the city.

Q. Is there any difference in the wages of these men who can do all the branches of the business, and inferior men? A. No; unless by special agreement. The rate of wages is fixed by the association and they have made a general rate for all the classes.

Q. Then I understand you to say that painters in Halifax can generally take a turn at all branches of the business? A. Yes.

Q. Is there a falling off of harmony prevailing between the employers and the men of the "Society"? A. Some 5 or 6 years ago there was a little trouble and a strike took place at that time; but there has been nothing since. Of course, I answer for my own establishment only, and there is likely to be no further trouble so far as I can see.

Q. Have you men who devote their entire time to the mixing of paints? A. Mixing of tints?

Q. Yes? A. No; each job has a man in charge of it and he sees to the arrangement of the colors under my own superintendence.

Q. Where do you get your material from; your leads? A. All parts of the world almost. We import English lead; English oil; Belgian glass, and English glass. It just depends upon our contracts; whatever the architect specifies in his specification, which sets out generally what is to be used.

Q. Do you get any leads from the other provinces? A. Yes; we have had some lead from Montreal.

Q. Is that branch of industry increasing in the Dominion? A. The manufacture of leads?

Q. Yes; in the Dominion? A. I cannot answer that question. I have not tried that trade there much. I have used some lead manufactured in Montreal as good as any English lead I have ever used.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Did I understand you to say in effect that you are compelled to pay indifferent workmen the same rate of wages per day or per week as you do to good men? A. Yes; we are compelled to pay them \$10 a week, even to the poorest men who formerly received \$5. According to the rules of the society there is no one belonging to it allowed to work under that rate.

Q. Are you not allowed to pay higher than that? A. That I could not say; when they raised the wages of the poor men the employers took advantage of it, of course, to pay only the rate demanded and the men were willing to work for that as they themselves had placed themselves in the association for that purpose.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Is there anything in the rule to compel you to pay a poor man \$10 when he is not worth it and to take him on? A. No; only in case of necessity when the work is pushing and you cannot get better men—then you have to employ them.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. In your experience what is the difference between the poorest men and the best men—that is the percentage? A. As far as my opinion is concerned I can say that these poor men barely earn their wages and a good man will earn 20 to 25 per cent. in the shop.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Is there a tendency among the poor men to advance themselves in the art of painting? A. They gradually become better, those that remain in the place, but the good men of course get constant employment the year round, while poorer men are out of work for some time each year, are entirely out of practice and consequently not able to advance much.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Is the principle adopted fixed in the price of labor such as to make the lowest wages a living rate? A. I think paying \$10 to these men per week is more than a living rate; I can say that to some it is more than they are worth.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are there any men paid over \$10 a week? A. Not in my establishment.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Can you not pay these men \$8 and \$9 a week when you can hire the best men, say at \$10? A. I would give the preference of hiring the better men at \$10 a week sooner than take an inferior man at \$6 or \$8 a week.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. You do not believe that men are endowed with the same capacity at birth? A. I believe that every man should be paid according to his merit and not according to a general rate.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. In speaking of leads you know there are some manufactured here at Henderson & Potts; do you use any of their materials? A. I have used it occasionally.

Q. Have they not been able to come up to the standard yet? A. Yes; they have solicited my trade time and again, and I have tried their lead and I must say I have found it good, but I do not use it as a general thing; I fancy English lead.

Q. Does it compare favorably with the leads or paints you get from elsewhere in the Provinces? A. I do not know what grade of lead they make. When I have tried them it has been the very best quality I have got—the genuine white lead—and it has been very good.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. How many months in the year do the men work in Halifax generally? A. We have old hands in the shop who have hardly lost a day this past season, but it just depends largely upon the nature of the contracts secured, say for large buildings.

Q. What is the percentage that remain idle in the winter time? A. In the winter months I suppose that one-half of them are idle.

Q. Generally how long do they remain idle of late years? A. The trade has not been as in former years. In former years they have been idle a longer portion of the year, but lately we have had more building going on.

Q. You say that there are about half of them idle during the winter months? A. Yes.

Q. How many months constitute the winter season in Halifax? A. Painters are generally busy up to the end of December on outside work, in finishing up the work for the season; sometimes it is the end of November. It is according to the amount of work on hand, and as a general thing it is the 1st of March before work begins to stir again.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. Are there any men in your employ worth \$14 a week? A. I should not like to answer that question; we have to be a little careful of what value we place on our men.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are there any men in Halifax receiving \$10 a week, who, if paid according to their ability, would get more? A. Yes; I have men in my employ.

Q. Then why do you not pay them more than \$10? A. Because the society asks for \$10 and we have to stand by the demand.

Q. Then you do not pay according to ability? A. I should like to do so, but I am not allowed to do so.

Q. Then such men as the cheap men worth \$8 or \$9 you keep on in the busy season, and when the slack season comes on you discharge the men worth \$8 or \$9, and keep the others on at \$10, although you say they are worth more? A. We do it that way: we allow the poor men to go off and we keep the good workmen on and they get steady employment. That is the only advantage good men get, which is a good deal.

HENRY HARRISON, painter, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How long have you been engaged as painter, and as an employer of painters? A. My time as an employer has been about 15 years.

Q. Where do you reside? A. In Dartmouth. I do business in the city.

Q. What is the average number of men you employ the year round? A. The average would be about 10.



Q. What classes of men have you; have you any class of men which may be termed first class, and a class which may be termed second class—what wages do you give them? A. We pay first class men \$11 and the remainder \$10 a week.

Q. Do you have constant employment for these men all the year around? A. No.

Q. About how many on the average do you find constant employment for? A. Not more than two or three.

Q. Do you know of any other employment that your men get while they are away from you? A. I do not think they get any.

Q. Do you find your men as a general rule attentive to their business, intelligent and sober? A. Yes.

Q. Have you had any difficulty with your workmen; labor difficulty, I mean? A. Well, there was about three years ago a little difficulty on account of the Painters Society; that is the Journeymen Painters Society, when there was a strike for wages and they demanded \$10 a week; that is the only difficulty we have experienced.

Q. How did you arrange with your men on that occasion? A. We paid it.

Q. Do you find that having fixed the wages at that rate is a benefit to the men themselves, or to you, or otherwise? A. I cannot say it is any special benefit to us as employers, for we are sometimes compelled now to pay inferior men who we consider not worth that money.

Q. Have you any boys in your employ? A. Yes; three.

Q. Are these boys considered as apprentices? A. Yes.

Q. Have you them bound by any means? A. No.

Q. Nothing but a verbal agreement? A. No.

Q. Do the boys, as a general rule, remain with you to serve out their full time? A. They have. I have had as many as a dozen who finished their time with me.

Q. Do any of them work with you as journeymen painters? A. Some of them have continued on; but at the present time I have had some who have worked for me for five or six years.

Q. You have men capable of graining, paper hanging and doing all other kinds of work? A. Yes.

Q. Do you pay these men anything extra? A. Yes.

Q. What? A. A dollar a week.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Would it make any difference if the wages were lower in the busy season; would you have to pay inferior men just as much in proportion? A. I think so; yes.

Q. Then practically you would be in the same position as far as grading was concerned? A. Yes.

Q. In what way does it operate against the interest of the employer, having the rate of wages fixed? A. Well, it should not operate against them at all in my opinion, but I am sorry to say that it does, owing to the fact that the men conducting the business do not establish any scale or rate of prices.

Q. Would it not be better to have an agreement between the employés and employers fixing the rate annually before the busy season opens? A. I think it would.

Q. Do you think that could be brought up? A. I think there should be an understanding between the employers as well as amongst the employés as regards the rate of wages and the price for the work, which is not the case at the present time.

Q. If you had a board of arbitrators amongst you to fix these things do you think that would avoid all these differences? A. I think it would as regards our trade.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. Do you think if the employers were banded together in the same manner as the employés it would be of any benefit to them? A. I think it would be of benefit to them.

Q. And of more benefit to the employés? A. Yes; I do not see how the employer or employé would be placed at any disadvantage.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. You believe in combinations all around? A. I do not see why we should not have them as much as professional men and men of other kinds who have societies. I know it is one of the most serious objections I have to contend with, I think.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Are the men paid generally weekly? A. Yes.

Q. In cash? A. In cash. I believe it is customary to pay weekly, although we only pay fortnightly; I do not know whether any other firms do that or not.

Q. Can you tell us the difference between the wages in Halifax and St. John? A. I do not think there is any; I do not know that there is. There is no material difference at any rate.

MICHAEL O'BRIEN, ship carpenter, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Are you an employer of labor to any extent? A. No; very little. I am a journeyman ship carpenter.

Q. What is the length of time which a man in your employment can work in the course of a year, I mean what is about the average number of days he can work in the course of a year? A. That will vary a great deal according to circumstances. when you speak of shipwright work in Halifax, it simply means repairs; that depends upon circumstances also as regards the number of disasters occurring among shipping. The average number of days is uncertain, but generally the men are pretty regularly employed; they do not lose a great deal of time. I did not keep my time regularly. I seldom do, but the last time I kept it, which was for some seven years, I earned about \$800 a year in that seven years, but I do not think that is the average time. I think that would be in excess of the majority, but others can tell you about theirs.

Q. What is the average rate of pay per day of your men? A. Their wages are \$2.50 for the day. We used to work ten hours for a number of years, and then the hours were reduced to nine and then to eight. At present the hours are from 1st of May until 1st of November nine hours, and then after that they work from 8 in the morning until sunset comes before 5 or until sunset when it comes after 5—I mean when sunset is before 5 they knock off at sunset. I may explain that I am the secretary of the Shipwrights and Caulkers' Association, or which was such for over 20 years, but four years ago they separated, and are now two distinct associations. Persons may be members of both associations, so that a shipwright may be both a shipwright and a caulker, and pay dues into both. I will have to confine myself now to one branch, but may say here that a shipwright earns more than a caulker does, and a shipwright and caulker working at both earns more than a man who works at shipwright work alone or at caulking alone, because he has the opportunity of working at the different branches.

Q. As a general rule are the men who are entitled to work under these terms capable of working at both shipwright work and at caulking? A. No; you may take us at 120 at the present time and count 40—I only speak now approximately—who work at caulking solely, and 40 who work at carpentry work, and then about another 40 who can work at carpentry work or at caulking.

Q. These caulkers' wages, what are they? A. The same as shipwrights'.

Q. How many members form the association? A. We have less now in numbers than formerly—for a good while—I cannot give you positively the number of

caulkers. There is, I think, probably, in the vicinity of 50, and about 40 in the shipwright's association. We have a rule that after a man becomes sixty years of age he is exempt from dues and owes no allegiance to the society—he is not confined to working for the regular rate of wages; he can work for what he pleases. If he is hearty and willing and able to earn his wages, he can remain in the organization and collect his \$2.50 a day.

Q. Do you know whether the shipwrights and caulkers, as a rule, are better off now than before—take ten years ago, for instance, and start in regard to their wages and mode of living, their expenses and all other things being taken into consideration? A. No; we had four or five years of very dull times, but after the sugar refineries opened it seemed to open up a new branch of trade and there were less of us here to do it then, for some had gone to Honolulu as then there was hardly any work for shipwrights, but after the sugar refineries opened it brought a good many sailing vessels here and that gave a new impetus to our trade, and times have been improving since then; still I don't say it is any better now than ten years ago or when I first remember working around Halifax.

Q. When there was ship building going on? A. Yes. The association did not ever interfere and our men could work at whatever wages they liked and they would leave construction work and go to work on old work, but now there is no construction work going on.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Supposing a man is sixty years of age and made no application for exemption and paid his dues, do you dictate as to what he should receive to his employer? A. A man who is sixty and not making application for exemption we consider he is to receive \$2.50 a day, and while remaining in the society he would be subject to the penalty if he takes less.

Q. Then if a man wants a caulker and takes such a man he has to pay him \$2.50 a day whether he is worth it or not? A. Yes.

Q. What did you say your average earnings were? A. I gave you my wages a little while ago and that is not a fair average. As a general rule the employers will take the best men first and then when more are wanted selection is made until at times the reserves are called upon, and at times we have to telegraph away for them and bring them in from the country, and there are several of the men away in the country who leave their address with me and then if wanted I wire for them. Of course the inferior men do not get as much wages as the other men, that is in the course of the year.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Could not I employ that man of sixty under \$2.50 when he really was worth only \$1.50? A. He could withdraw and then say: "I am out of your jurisdiction, I am out of age," and we could not exact the penalty from him; when a man is sixty he is not liable for a penalty then.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Supposing he is at work with a gang of men and his employer finds he is not fit to work and he discharges the man for that cause, will the caulkers allow the employer to do that or will they quit work themselves? A. The men would not interfere with the employer; they would try to reach the man.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. When he does not give his resignation in he considers himself able to work? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. An employer may discharge a man he considers to be an inferior workman at any time? A. We say a man to be discharged must be discharged for just cause—



he may discharge him for being a drunkard or for being notoriously incompetent or if we find a man in the society not a mechanic we dismiss him; we would tell him to take the money paid in to us and go, and we take \$12 as entrance fee and this we give him and tell him we don't want him any longer.

Q. A man might pass sixty and think he is as good a workman as ever he was and charge as the others do if he has not withdrawn from the union? A. Still we don't assume to have any control over him after he is.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. I want you to tell me now as to the class of houses, the rate of living here, and other points of interest to us in relation to the workingmen here? (To the members of the Commission:—Perhaps there is not in the city of Halifax a man that more thoroughly understands these matters than does Mr. O'Brien.) Give us about the average class of houses that the mechanics live in here in the city of Halifax A. I can remember mechanics, their clothing and their residence for forty years at all events, and I know the houses they used to live in some twenty years ago and the houses they live in now, and I have many opportunities of going to their houses from having been 24 years secretary of that association and my duties called me to their houses on many occasions.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Are you now speaking of any trade in particular? A. In general I speak of my own trade and I find them generally comfortable, if not it is owing to drink very much of it. Of those who look after their earnings I think fifty per cent. live in their own houses and some of them own two houses. I know that our mechanics as a general rule are in comfortable circumstances having good houses to live in and I can put my hand on journeymen mechanics, well one though I never saw his bank book, yet I am safe in saying that he has four or five thousand dollars in the bank, and I know a laboring man who has got his property cleared and is probably worth \$8,000 and there is another who lives a little further up from me who though he has neglected himself a little lately is probably worth ten or twenty thousand dollars; there is comfort all around me.

Q. Did they save this from their earnings? A. Yes; they never were in any business; one of them was foreman under the city engineer getting his \$2 or \$1.75 a day. Myself I have often earned my \$20 or \$30 a week and often my \$150 a month, as we would get double pay for over hours and still there are men who earned as much as I did and they are as poor as rats and I was surprised at the rooms they had.

Q. How would the price of provisions compare now with say ten or fifteen years ago? A. Sugar is cheaper than ever; take flour, cottons and other articles except fish—the only article we have at our doors, fish, that is the only article hard to get. I could compare the prices if I only had my book here and instead of it being 25 per cent. higher to live now than it was, then I would say it was 24 or 25 per cent. less. Let them compare the price of articles, sugar, tea, cottons and the necessities of life when I was a boy and when we gave six pence a pound for pork—it is cheaper now—and I am fifty years of age and over and it has been a surprise to me—why there are laboring men now who have pianos in the house—and there was a teamster living near me who left \$10,000 and there was a piano in the house that cost \$300. If I only had that book here—and my wife keeps all those things—I could show you how things were then.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q. Could you hunt up that book? A. I will ask her to find it.

Q. Those accounts are correctly kept? A. They are the pass-books from the grocers.

Q. What about the rent of houses? A. The rents are a trifle less now. The locality that I live in is largely made up of residences for mechanics; they occupy

what they call flats, which rent at \$6 a month. This is taxes and all. Previous to the lien law as to taxes the tenants had to pay the taxes but now the owner pays them. The rents are lower now than formerly and instead of their being an increase there has been a slight reduction in rents. In my own case, I have six houses; there are five of them let and I know that I draw less rent and pay the taxes than I did before and that such is the case all around my neighborhood I know and that is an extensive neighborhood.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How many rooms are there in one of those flats? A. In the house I have on Gerrish street there are five rooms on the upper flat and downstairs there are only three; you may say, as upstairs one of the rooms goes over the hallway, as a general rule there are no more than four rooms on the upper flat and that is back and front rooms and two small bed-rooms, one over the hall—and that is the general way they are laid out.

Q. How far is that from the business portion of the city? A. I can reach the city hall or the Dartmouth ferry in fifteen or eighteen minutes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. How far is your house from the post office? A. Probably by measurement my houses might be a mile and a half and by walking distance about 20 minutes walk. The cars run right below if you want to get down town.

Q. You have shops, &c., around you? A. Yes; we have everything necessary to civilization alongside of us there.

JOHN MACKASEY, liquor license inspector, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Give us a resume of your business since you commenced; what actually has been done, what the public has a hold of from being published in the papers and all that kind of thing?

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. What are your duties as inspector of licenses? A. My duties consist in supervising the liquor traffic in the city of Halifax. As inspector I have to see that the laws in relation to it are carried out in every particular.

Q. Who grants the license? A. They are granted by the city council and are signed by the mayor and the inspector.

Q. The council must approve of them? A. Yes; there are certain forms to be gone through before they reach the council.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How many licenses are granted for the city of Halifax? How many, say this year? A. 93, wholesale and all, but there is some question as to the wholesale.

Q. Is the number increasing or decreasing? A. It has decreased; previous to the license law there were 170 or 180 licenses granted in the city.

Q. Has drinking increased or decreased? A. I do not know that I can answer that.

Q. Do you know from your own knowledge or from statistics or other sources whether the arrests for drunkenness have increased? A. I think they are about the same. I do not think that would show very much.

Q. Is Halifax distinguished from other towns in that respect in consequence of a militia force being present? A. I should think so.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. When was the law passed to raise the licenses? A. The law in force now was passed in 1886.

Q. Do you think that has done anything to prevent intemperance? A. I think there is as much strong drink drank now as before the Act passed.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. How many of the 93 would be hotel licenses? A. There would be 19.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. How many saloons? A. 56 saloons and shops.

Q. And the balance would be wholesale and brewers? A. Wholesale and brewers, but they don't come and get a license.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Do they sell liquors in the groceries? A. No; no liquor is allowed to be sold where there is merchandise or other things for sale. The least they can sell is a pint, not to be drank on the premises.

Q. Have you any idea of the number of places where liquor is sold unlicensed? A. I would like to find out.

Q. But have you any idea? A. No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. In hotel licenses is liquor allowed to be sold over the bar? A. No.

Q. Is that enforced? A. I do not know any instances of it being sold over the bar.

Q. Has drinking decreased or increased in comparison to the decrease in the number of licenses? A. I do not think that would affect the drinking at all. There is enough to serve the crowd and they will find it out. I do not think the number of shops has anything to do with that at all.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. Whose duty is it to see whether liquor is sold and drank on the premises? A. That is the duty of the inspector.

Q. That is yourself? A. Yes; that is my duty.

Q. I suppose you visit the different places? A. I do occasionally.

Q. I suppose they have no restaurant in connection with the Province Building? A. I think they can get drink up there.

Q. Is it licensed? A. No; it is like a private house. There is nothing in the law to prevent you buying a bottle and bringing it home to treat your friends but you cannot sell it.

Q. Do they have a bar in the Province Building? A. No; you are thinking of Ottawa, now I think.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. The law prevents you from taking a glass over the bar but does not prevent you from taking a quart home? A. The least you can buy is a pint in a shop and the most you can buy is two gallons at one time—that is one person.

Q. The law as it stands now prevents you taking a glass of liquor on the licensed premises? A. Yes.

Q. The drinker would be fined as well as the person selling it? A. Yes.

Q. What is the fine? A. The person who allows the liquor to be sold would be liable to a fine not exceeding \$50 and the person who drinks it is liable to a fine of \$20 and if you were in there and had a bottle and you gave your friend a drink you would be liable to a fine of \$20 because it is with your privity and consent and you



allowed it. We had a man up before the court last week who was brought up for selling without license on three occasions and his bar tender while he was out sold and delivered the liquor. It was proved that he had sold on three different occasions, on three distinct days, and the proprietor who was not present at all was fined \$20 and the person who acted as his clerk left the city limits and we could not reach him with a summons but if he had appeared possibly he would have been fined on conviction \$150.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. Has the inspector of license to know whether the liquor is good or bad? A. The people generally have to do that for themselves. There is nothing as to the inspector on that point.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Have you the power to go in and take away liquors from licensed houses to have them analyzed? A. There is nothing in the Act giving that power.

Q. There was a clause in the McCarthy Act allowing that power? A. Yes ; I believe so.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What becomes of the fines? A. They go to the municipality,—if there is an informer in the case half goes to the informer, but in pretty near all the cases I am the informer and in that case it goes into the license fund.

J. M. ANDERSON SWORN.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :

Q. What is your business? A. I am a printer.

Q. Are you a book and job or a piece hand? A. I have been on both.

Q. What branch of the business are you engaged at at present? A. I am engaged on job work.

Q. What are the wages of a good job hand in Halifax? A. They range from \$9 to \$10. A good job hand might demand \$11.

Q. What is the scale fixed by the organization? A. \$9; that is for journeymen; of course a foreman gets larger wages.

Q. There is no scale of wages fixed for foremen? A. Not particularly.

Q. How many hours a day do hands work in the job room? A. Ten.

Q. At what hour do they go to work in the morning? A. They go to work at seven o'clock in the morning.

Q. How long do they work? A. Until six; there is generally a half holiday on Saturday.

Q. Is there any night work? A. There is sometimes.

Q. Are the men paid extra for that? A. Yes.

Q. Are they paid at the day rate? A. No; they are paid 25 cents an hour for job hands.

Q. Is there a surplus of job hands in Halifax? A. A good many of them had to clear out in consequence of the Dominion Government work being taken away from the city. They first took away the post office work, and the railway work, and the custom house work, and last but not least the Dominion electoral list, so that is the last of the pap.

Q. Does it go to other Provinces? A. Yes; if we had the post office work here wages would be \$10 instead of \$9.

Q. Will you explain that? A. There would be more work.

Q. It would take up the unemployed? A. Yes; there are many men who are unemployed, and many have gone away.

Q. Has the day scale been larger in Halifax than \$9? A. No.

Q. Has there been any increase in the scale? A. Yes; it has increased from \$8 to \$9.

Q. Since when has that taken place? A. I could not say; probably it would be two years ago; perhaps it may have been three years ago; I could not say for certain.

Q. How long does an apprentice serve here? A. He is supposed to serve four or five years; of course, if he is not a competent printer he will not receive wages. If he goes through the office he gets \$9.

Q. What is the opinion of the men as a body, do they prefer the indenture system? A. I have no idea; such a thing has never been mentioned.

Q. Have you given the publication of the school books of the Province any thought? A. No.

Q. Do you think the publication houses of Halifax are capable of publishing the school books for the Province here instead of having them printed in the old country? A. Yes; I think they could do it.

Q. Is there an electrotyping establishment in Halifax? A. No; but one could be easily established; it has been done on a small scale.

Q. Have there been any labor troubles with the men lately? A. No.

Q. Are all the job hands in Halifax connected with the organization? A. Pretty much so.

Q. Do the job hands consider it a benefit to them to be organized? A. They do, and the newspaper hands as well.

Q. Are there any benefits derived from the organization? A. We keep up the scale of prices to a certain extent.

Q. When young boys serve an apprenticeship here do they remain here or do they go abroad? A. Of course some few like to go abroad. Sometimes they come back and sometimes they remain away.

Q. The exodus is not perceptible? A. No.

Q. In busy seasons do many come in from outside? A. I cannot say as to that; I have not been in other offices to see; but a few have come in, I think.

Q. Have you worked in other places as a journeyman than in Halifax? A. No; I have never been out of Halifax.

Q. Did you serve your time in Halifax? A. Yes.

Q. And you consider yourself a good competent job hand? A. No; I do not.

Q. Do printers come here from the United States and remain here permanently? A. Very few of them; they stop a very little while. You never see a man come here from the States, who belongs there, and remain, because the wages are not so high.

Q. Do you think the job printers in Halifax receive as large a pay in proportion as in other cities of the same size? A. No; I do not think they do.

Q. Have the job hands any grievances to lay before the Commission? A. I don't know as I could give any; except that one grievance is that we would like to have all the work that ought to be done here back again. We do not like to see it taken away to other places and our hands thrown out of work, for it is hard enough for the bosses to make both ends meet now.

Q. Is there a keen competition between the printing offices? A. There is a good deal; of course if we had this work there would not be so much, as some of the offices would be fully employed.

Q. Is any of the printing belonging to the Province done in the United States? A. I do not know of any.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Have you constant employment all the year round? A. Yes.

Q. Are there many who have not? A. Yes; there are many.

Q. Is it due to that fact so many have left the city? A. Yes.

A—8\*\*

By Mr. KELLY:

Q. Have you always worked here? A. Yes.

Q. Did you serve your time here? A. Yes.

Q. How long have you worked at the printing business? A. For the past 30 years.

Q. Do the wages here compare favorably with the wages elsewhere? A. I do not know. The wages, I believe, are higher in the United States.

Q. How is it in other parts of Canada? A. I could not say.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q. Where do the men go when they leave here? A. They may have gone to England or to the United States, for all I know.

W. G. HODGSON, printer, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a printer.

Q. Are you engaged in the same office as the last witness? A. No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are you a book and job hand or a compositor? A. Both.

Q. You work as a compositor on a newspaper? A. Yes.

Q. On a morning or evening paper? A. On an evening paper.

Q. What are the wages per thousand? A. 25 cents.

Q. Are the men kept busy during the working hours? A. They are.

Q. How many hours' composition do men have on an average? A. From 8½ to 9½ hours.

Q. What would be the average weekly wages of an ordinary hand working six days a week? A. On an evening paper on composition he would make \$10.50.

Q. Do the men on an evening paper set all the solid matter that goes into the paper? A. No; they take a share.

Q. Do they set advertisements and tabular work? A. Sometimes they get advertisements, but not very often.

Q. Has the office a man set apart for setting advertisements? A. Yes; but there is more than one man can do.

Q. Have they only one man specially for that work? A. Yes.

Q. And when he has more than he can do it goes to the other men? A. Yes.

Q. Has the office a man specially for tabular matter? A. No; not on the newspaper.

Q. Does that come to the men on piece work? A. Sometimes it does.

Q. When it does not who corrects it? A. The office man.

Q. There is a man then specially for that work? A. No; but it is done in that way. Sometimes you get it and sometimes you do not.

Q. What position does the man hold that does that? A. It is not a man at all; it is an apprentice. When he cannot do it it goes to the men.

Q. Has the scale of wages increased in your time? A. It has been less than it is now, but not within 14 years.

Q. Has it increased within the past ten years? A. No.

Q. When did the increase take place? A. It has increased within 14 years a little.

Q. What was the scale of wages about 14 years ago? A. It was from 22 to 23 cents a thousand.

Q. Did the proprietors give you the increase on account of their prosperity; was it given voluntarily? A. I do not remember.

Q. Was there any labor difficulty over it? A. Not much.



Q. Was it settled between the men and the office? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think the compositors on evening papers receive sufficient per thousand in comparison with what they receive in other cities in the Dominion? A. I have no idea of the scale in other places.

Q. Have you worked outside the city of Halifax? A. Not outside the Province.

Q. Are the compositors on evening papers kept constantly employed all the year round? A. Yes.

Q. Are there many men idle that have not steady employment? A. Yes; a good many.

Q. They keep around the offices in the position of subs, I suppose? A. Yes; there are a good many of that class.

Q. Is there much of an influx from outside during the busy season? A. No; the busy season has gone by.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. You say you have nine hours' composition; is that composition the total length of the day's work? A. Yes; that is the total length of the day's work.

THOMAS HONEY, printer, sworn.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. What is your trade? A. I am a printer.

Q. Are you a journeyman or a foreman? A. I am a foreman.

Q. Newspaper or book and job? A. Book and job.

Q. Did you hear the rate of wages as stated by the last witness? A. He was speaking of composition work, as I understood.

Q. I mean the previous witness? A. I did not hear him.

Q. What is the standard earnings per week of a job printer in Halifax? A. \$9.

Q. Good hands will receive more than that? A. Yes; frequently.

Q. According to their ability? A. Yes.

Q. Are they graded upwards? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any apprentices? A. Yes.

Q. How long do they serve? A. That has a good deal to do with the kind of a boy he is. A good boy will serve four or five years, and a bad one two or three weeks.

Q. Have you authority to employ and to discharge boys and men? A. Yes.

Q. When you take a boy on do you question him about his education? A. Yes; that is the very first thing we do.

Q. Do you take any boys that cannot read manuscript? A. We keep one of that kind around the press room generally.

Q. What are the wages of a pressman in a job office? A. A good pressman gets the same as a printer; we pay our men \$9 a week.

Q. Do any boys run presses? A. Yes; we have what we call helpers; the boy I referred to who could not read manuscript made a very good pressman.

Q. Are the boys in book offices taught the business, or have they to pick it up for themselves? A. As far as I am concerned it is my aim to turn out all the boys as good as myself.

Q. Are the boys well treated by the proprietors and foremen? A. I consider that they are.

Q. Is there any fine imposed if a boy is late in the morning? A. No.

Q. Are there any young women running presses in Halifax? A. I believe there are two.

Q. Can you speak definitely as to the number of years they have been at the business? A. About five or six months.

Q. What wages do girls receive here? A. I have no idea.

Q. What are their ages? A. I never saw them.

Q. What ages do you take apprentices at? A. Any boy we have anything to do with is about 14; between 13 and 14. I think not older than 15.

Q. Are there many boys going into the trade in Halifax in your department? A. No; I don't think there are.

Q. When boys are out of their apprenticeship do they generally remain any length of time in the city? A. I don't know about that; there are a good many native printers in Halifax at the present time.

Q. What wages does a boy receive the first year? A. We give ours \$1.50 a week for the first five or six months, and then increase according to their ability.

Q. Year by year? A. Year by year.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Can you tell us where the school books for the Province are printed? A. No.

Q. Do you know if any portion of them are printed outside the Province? A. I have heard it said that McKinlay imports them.

Q. Are the job offices here good enough to do the work? A. If I had the job I could tell. What kind of books?

Q. Readers, histories and books of that kind? A. Certainly we could do them as well as anything.

Q. Is any of that work done here? A. I don't know of any; we do not do any in our office.

ANDREW McAINSH, painter, sworn:—

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your business? I am a house painter.

Q. Are you a general hand? A. I am a painter, whitewasher, and glazier.

Q. Are you a paper hanger? A. No; I don't do any of that now.

Q. What are the wages paid to painters? A. Eight dollars a week.

Q. Is that the regular pay? A. That is the rate for a short time.

Q. What is the rate fixed by the Union? A. Ten dollars a week.

Q. Are any men getting more? A. I don't know.

Q. How many hours do you work in the summer? A. Ten hours.

Q. How many hours do you work in the winter? I don't work in the winter.

Q. How many months in the year can a painter find steady employment? A. Last year I worked a little over six months.

Q. Would that be the average each year? A. Yes; about that.

Q. Do you know if painters during the idle season go to other occupations? A. I believe some of them do.

Q. Where do they find employment? A. They work on the wharves and at steamers, drive cabs and trucks and do anything they can get to do.

Q. Have you ever had trouble with your employers? A. Yes; there was some about three years ago.

Q. How did it originate? A. It was trouble about the boys.

Q. How did you determine it? A. The men could not do anything and had to give it up.

Q. Does the union fix the number of boys to be employed in proportion to the number of men? A. No; the bosses fix that themselves, I guess.

Q. Have the wages of painters improved within the past 6 or 8 years? A. No; they are no more now than they were 15 or 18 years ago.

Q. Are you a married man? A. No; I am not.

Q. Can you tell us what wages are paid to grainers and decorators? A. I believe they get something like \$10 a week.

Q. Do they get anything extra? A. I could not say.

Q. Is paper hanging done by day's work or by the piece? A. It is done by day's work.

Q. A paper hanger gets the same wages then? A. I believe so.

Q. Are there many idle painters in Halifax at present? A. I believe there are a good many.

Q. Is the supply larger than the demand? A. Yes; they are three months busy and then it slackens off.

Q. Are there any men working at the trade who are paid less than \$10 a week? A. I could not say.

Q. You don't know if ordinary brush hands are taken on cheaper? A. I believe they are.

By Mr. CLARK:—

Q. Have you had any accidents among the painters—I mean accidents from insufficient scaffolding? A. No.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do painters erect their own scaffolding? A. Yes.

Q. In busy seasons do the majority of painters in Halifax receive \$10 a week? A. That is what I receive, and I suppose all get the same. Some I believe are working for less.

THOMAS KENNEDY, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a painter.

Q. Do you work in the same shop as the last witness? A. No.

Q. What are your wages? A. Ten dollars a week for full time, and \$8 a week short time.

Q. Is that the average for all the men in the city? A. Yes.

Q. Are any men receiving more? A. Not as I know.

Q. Do you know any man receiving less? A. No.

Q. Do you think the statement of the last witness, as to the average length of time that a painter works during the year, was correct? A. The majority lose about three months.

Q. Do you keep house? A. Yes.

Q. Can you tell us whether the cost of rent and house-keeping has increased within the past seven or eight years? A. Decidedly it has increased a great deal.

Q. And there has not been a corresponding increase of wages? A. Not the last five years.

Q. Are there many boys taken on in your business to learn the trade? A. Yes; a great many.

Q. Are they bound by indenture of any kind? A. No; there are too many taken on, that is the trouble. In some shops there are as many as eight boys.

Q. How many men would there be? A. From fifteen to twenty.

Q. Do the boys remain long enough to learn the trade thoroughly? A. Some of them do. Very few do.

Q. What is the cause of their leaving before their time is out? A. I guess they get tired of it. The wages are too low.

Q. Do they quit the trade altogether? A. Yes.

Q. Have you many men coming in, in the busy season, from other places to work? A. Yes; a great many.

Q. Are they good, skilled painters? A. Most of them are not.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. What do you call other places? A. I mean from the country, from Nova Scotia.



Q. What kind of men would you call them? A. I would call them laboring men.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are they good brush hands? A. Some of them; some of them are very poor.

Q. Do they find employment, as a rule, in the busy season? A. Yes; for about three months; after that they go away.

Q. Have you had any difficulty with the employers about employing them? A. No.

Q. Have the employers expressed a desire to employ them at lower wages. A. I don't know.

Q. Is there an understanding between the employers and the painters as to the rate of wages? A. No; there is none.

Q. Have you anything you wish to offer in connection with the trade? A. Well, in regard to the apprentices, there should be something done. We would like to make an arrangement about that.

Q. If there was an indenture system, would it help you? A. I think so.

Q. Would the painters generally favor such a system? A. I could not say.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. What rent do men generally have to pay who earn the wages that painters do? A. Eight dollars a month.

Q. How much higher is that than it was ten years ago? A. Three dollars a month.

Q. What part of the city would that be in? A. About the centre.

Q. Would it be handy to their work? A. Pretty handy.

Q. What are the necessaries of life that are higher now than they used to be? A. Everything seems to be higher to me.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. You say there is no painting done between the 1st November and the 1st May? A. There is very little. There are perhaps two or three hands that work all winter.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are there any boys indentured at the business in Halifax? A. Not at the painting trade.

Q. Do the apprentices learn the various branches of the business? A. Unless they learn them themselves there is no one to teach them.

Q. Do the boys turn out to be journeymen? A. Yes.

Q. This house that you pay \$8 a month for, is it a tenement? A. Yes.

Q. You say that almost everything is dearer than it used to be; are meats dearer than five or ten years ago? A. Yes.

Q. Are tea, sugar and coffee dearer? A. I could not say about that.

Q. Is fuel dearer, that is, wood and coal? A. I think so.

Q. Is clothing dearer? A. No.

Q. Are boots and shoes dearer? A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is the price of a ton of coal in Halifax to-day? A. I could not say.

Q. What was it five years ago—five, six or seven dollars? A. Something about that.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you pay \$8 a month for rent? A. No; that is the general rent. I pay \$6.

Q. How many rooms would a man get for \$8 a month? A. Three generally and sometimes four.

WILLIAM JOHNSTON, house painter, sworn and examined.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Do you work in the same establishment as the last witness? A. No.

Q. Can you corroborate him as to the rate of wages? A. I heard what he stated; yes.

Q. Have you anything further to add to his statement? A. That is about the rate of wages, \$8 for 8 hours and \$10 for 10 hours a day.

Q. Do you know if the painters have anything to complain of in their treatment? A. In regard to what?

Q. Anything relating to the trade? A. Yes; there is one thing. There are too many apprentices in a shop. We have known two men to be in a shop and nine apprentices, and good mechanics, with families, walking about in fine weather, and when the men are discharged the boys are kept on—that is of course for the rough work.

Q. What wages do boys generally get? A. \$1 up to \$2 a week.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Are there any boys getting \$1? A. Yes; when they go to the business.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Up as high as \$2? A. Yes; and I have known them to be three years at the business and getting \$1 50.

Q. Are these boys ever sent out with journeymen on a job? A. No; as a general thing the boys are kept on the rough work, and if a man were sent with them they would be too particular, but generally they do priming and all the rough work around the shop.

Q. Are the boys ever sent out by themselves to do work? A. Very often; in fact they do pretty well all the first coatings upon a building.

Q. Do you know if ever they are sent out to do jobs around a house? A. Yes; before they are out of their time very often; when they are a few years at it they get a little handy.

Q. How many apprentices do you think would be fair in proportion to five journeymen, or ten—any number you like? A. A boy to five men would be about all that would be required, or three boys in a shop. In a busy season there is an average of ten or twelve men and three boys would be sufficient, I think.

Q. Do you think that these boys displace men? A. Well, they have.

Q. If there were fewer boys the men would have more constant employment? A. They would.

Q. Can you suggest any means that would alter that condition of affairs—any system? A. No; I suppose a man doing business can take on as many boys as he chooses to.

Q. Do you think this matter could be settled by arbitration between yourselves and your employers? A. They tried it one time; they had three boys in the shop, and the same employers requested that outside of that they should be allowed errand boys, and in a very short time they had the errand boys out working at painting too.

Q. Did you have arbitration for that or was there just a meeting? A. There was a little trouble over it; they had a meeting and they asked the business men, the master painters to attend. None of them attended personally; a few sent in letters that they were perfectly satisfied, in fact some of them thought that was as many as they could keep.

Q. The greatest objection, then, is the number of boys employed? A. It is the number of boys employed, and then there is a great many working at painting—men who have never learned it nor served any apprenticeship at it—handy men who work for a less rate of wages.

Q. Do you know what they receive less than a good skilled man? A. Men who have been seamen, book-binders, butchers and others who have got a little handy with the brush at rough work come in and take it out of skilled hands.

Q. How many months in the year will these handy men get employment at painting? A. I have known some of them to work eleven months out of the year, whereas a man, who has served his time and is a good mechanic, has been idle for five and six months.

Q. Do you know if any preference is given handy men by the employers if they can get them? A. They get them cheaper.

Q. Have you known cases where handy men have been taken on and skilled workmen refused work? A. No; I have not known any of that.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are there any apprentices indentured in Halifax? A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. If there was any you would know? A. I would hear of it.

Q. Do many of the apprentices remain after being at the business for five years with their employers? A. Now and then they have employment for them, but when the work is slack the apprentices are discharged and they have to stay idle until spring opens again, and it is the same all round and that is where the main trouble is; a boy only serves a few months out of the year and by the time he becomes a man why he cannot claim the wages he should.

Q. Is a dollar a week for the first year the standard amount paid to apprentices? A. Some shops may give a little more; it depends on the boy's ability and as to whether he is a smart and a good boy.

Q. Are they generally taught the various branches of the trade such as paper hanging, graining and such like? A. To the best of my knowledge they have to pick it up the best way they can themselves.

Q. Do you think a compulsory system of indenturing apprentices would have a tendency to make better workmen, that it would result in the boys being taught their business properly? A. I do; I think it is much required.

Q. Do you think the painters of Halifax as a body would be favorable to such a system? A. They would be as far as I have heard.

Q. Do you think all round that the painters of Halifax are receiving sufficient for their labor in comparison with other skilled branches of industry? A. Not for the length of time they are employed.

P. F. MARTIN, painter, sworn, examined.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do you belong to the Painters' Union? A. Yes.

Q. Do you hold any office in connection with it? A. President.

Q. Can you tell us whether there are any benefits connected with it outside of trade benefits? A. None whatever.

Q. In trade matters have the painters found the society a benefit to them? A. Yes.

Q. In what way has it helped them? A. Financially.

Q. In keeping up wages? A. Yes; it was the natural thing; it was what it was got up for.

Q. If there was no union here do you think that there would be a uniform rate of wages? A. I do not.

Q. Have you had much difficulty with this poor class of labor that has been spoken of this evening? A. Very much.

Q. Tell the Commission how it affects you? A. Every Tom, Dick and Harry come into this town from all parts of the Dominion that know nothing of painting



whatever and call themselves painters and they work for less wages and deprive skilled mechanics of work.

Q. Are there many of these men employed during the summer season? A. Yes; a good many in the busy season in the spring—I mean heretofore, not now so much, the union has kept that down to some extent.

Q. When these men have been employed have you ever known them to be kept on and the skilled hands discharged? A. Yes.

Q. And at a lower rate of wages? A. Yes.

Q. Can you suggest any means of arriving at a satisfactory settlement of the question as to boys? A. I think the only satisfactory way would be to make a compulsory indenture system of apprentices.

Q. You think then that a compulsory indenture system would meet the requirements in your case? A. I am positive of that—it is one of the greatest troubles we have to contend with.

Q. As president do you speak the opinion of the men on this subject? A. I do.

Q. I would ask about the settlement of labor disputes, can you speak on behalf of the union in that respect too? A. Yes; arbitration is their feeling.

Q. They would prefer that to any other means? A. Yes; certainly.

Q. Are the men generally favorable to the establishment of a bureau of labor statistics? A. Yes.

Q. Can you tell us any benefit it would confer upon the men? A. I do not know any more than that it would show the amounts earned by both parties, and whether the mechanic or the employer did not receive an equal proportion.

Q. Do you keep what is called an out of work book in the Union? A. No.

Q. You keep no list of members out of work? A. No.

Q. Have you any idea of the number of days on an average that painters work throughout the year? A. They average about nine months in the year.

Q. Is there any difficulty during the idle season of obtaining other employment? A. Yes; many of them would not seek employment elsewhere, and the laboring classes have an opinion, and they would not like to infringe upon them and consequently they keep from doing it.

Q. As a rule then for three months in the year painters in Halifax have nothing to do? A. Yes; as a rule they have then nothing to do.

Q. Do you know if under the present rate of wages and the men working only nine months in the year, a painter can manage to earn enough to live comfortably? A. No, he cannot; that is a man with a family.

Q. Do you agree with the statements made here to-night as to the average rent of workingmen's houses in Halifax? A. I did not hear it.

Q. It was said that it was \$8 a month? A. No, it is too much; very few pay \$8 a month.

Q. What would be the average, in your opinion? A. About \$6.

Q. How many rooms would a man paying \$6 a month have? A. About three, perhaps four.

Q. In a central part of the city? A. No; more on the outside.

Q. About how far would a man have to go for such a house? A. About a quarter of an hour's walk from his business perhaps.

Q. Can you tell us whether mechanics have lost any portion of their wages through the insolvency of their employers? A. No; I do not know of any.

Q. Have you ever known painters to lose their wages from any cause on build-ings? A. No; I have not.

Q. Have you anything that you wish to suggest to the Commission, anything that would improve the condition of the workingman? A. It would improve it very much to have the apprentices indentured, and if something was also done to prevent outside labor coming into places depriving skilled mechanics of work, but I do not know that this Commission can do that. I think the City Council is the party to do that by taxing outside labor, and so give us a chance to live, which we don't get; anyone can come in and work here in Halifax, and then walk out without paying a dollar of taxation. We have to pay it and they do the work we should get.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are they paid weekly? A. Yes.

Q. On what day of the week? A. I think two or three shops pay fortnightly; I think the general pay is weekly.

Q. Do the men prefer Saturday as a pay day? A. I think they do; but I think Friday would be better, as it would give their wives a chance of purchasing on Saturday morning or Friday night and not have to take the refuse on Saturday night.

Q. Have you ever worked in the Dominion outside of Halifax? A. No; not in the Dominion.

Q. Have you ever worked on the other side? A. Yes; in Dublin, Liverpool and Manchester.

Q. What is the rate of wages paid painters there in comparison with that paid here? A. There is a difference of about \$2 a week; about seven shillings toted up in shillings and pence.

Q. In favor of Halifax? A. Yes.

Q. What would be the cost of living for a married man in the different places as compared with Halifax? A. Much cheaper here; eatables are all dearer than here.

Q. Then all round a painter is much better off in Halifax than there? A. Yes.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Is the cost of living here any greater than it was ten years ago? A. I do not think so. Of course some things are dearer and other things are cheaper or about the same.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is the purchasing power of a dollar as great in Halifax to-day as it was ten years ago? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Are the general habits of mechanics in the painting line sober? A. Very sober; no better men in the world.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Have any of them homes of their own? A. Yes.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q. Is it the general desire of the mechanics to make homes of their own and settle down here? A. I should say that is the desire of all mechanics.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Do you know whether painters in the old country have work all the year round? A. No; they have not—it is similar to here that way.

ALFRED YOUNG, house painter, sworn and examined.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Have you heard the testimony of the preceding witnesses? A. Yes.

Q. Do you agree with all the statements they have made? A. I do.

Q. Have you anything to add to their testimony? A. No.

Q. Are there any special grievance you wish to mention? A. No.

Q. Are the wages satisfactory—at least you get the same rate of wages as the others? A. Yes.

Q. And you have the same difficulties to contend with? A. Just so.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you agree with the previous witness in his remarks in connection with the apprentice system? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know if there are any apprentices indentured in the city of Halifax? A. There are none.

GEORGE TANNER, painter, sworn and examined.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Can you offer us any fresh testimony in connection with the painters' trade that we have not heard? A. There is very little on that subject, but I might say as a skilled mechanic I work in the summer 10 hours a day and I get the munificent sum of \$10 a week; if I work 9 hours I get \$9 and if I work 8 hours I get \$8 and sometimes in the winter time it comes to \$7 and I know of no mechanic in town who gets more as a journeyman. I think it would be a vast improvement if apprentices were to be indentured; it would keep a lot outside the business. I will tell you how, in the first instance, the bosses at the present time take on as many boys as they think proper. I worked in a shop last summer for three or four months and in that shop there were twenty-two men and eleven apprentices and the consequence was that in the winter time when this class of work is getting slack, if they are good boys, boys who have advanced themselves and who have picked up the business, these boys will be kept on and the bosses will send the journeymen mechanics away except perhaps the foreman and another one perhaps to do any fine work that comes in which he cannot trust the boys to do, and in a great many instances the boys are not good and in consequence if not indentured in the summer time he sends them home as they are no use to him; of course he might keep the best of them.

Q. What do boys receive at first on going into the business? A. In the first instance they get \$1 a week, some may get more and some give an advance of \$1 a year and I have known boys in their last year to get \$5 a week. I think it would be a vast improvement if we could have these boys indentured. There is a vast amount of unskilled labor comes in here. A man comes in here and calls himself a painter and he is not fit for anything unless it is on outside work and then when the busy time comes in he works for less wages and this is an injustice to us.

Q. Do you know if many immigrants remain in Halifax and work in your business? A. I think the most of them go away when the busy season is over. Some of them come from Newfoundland and some from the Upper Provinces and these take the cream of the work and you are sent about your business.

Q. Do you agree with the statements as to the time a painter finds work? A. I can speak for myself. This last year, being a very fortunate year with me, I worked 11 months. The year before I only worked a little over six months—I count the year from first of April to first of April. This year I do not know what my wages were but I made I suppose about \$400; the year previous I did not make over \$260; so if you take the two amounts I earned the vast amount of \$330 and that is a small amount in a year for a man with a family to support and I have seven children and a wife.

Q. Can a married man support his family comfortably on such wages? A. No; he cannot.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. Do you hire a tenement house? A. I own my own house, as it happens.

Q. Is it on freehold land? A. Yes; it is freehold.

Q. What rates and taxes do you pay on it? A. I pay school rates and taxes according to the assessment, sometimes it is about \$4 a year and sometimes it is under—it is only a small place.



Q. You do not let any tenement in your house? A. No; none whatever, it is not large enough.

Q. About what is the usual price paid for a tenement of three or four rooms? A. I paid rent at one time, and paid 80 cents a week for a room that you could only poke a little bed into it, and at times I have paid for two rooms \$1 a week, and a mechanic cannot afford too many rooms. It would take \$1.25 a week to get two or three rooms, and that would not be in a central part of the city either.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Is there difficulty in getting respectable houses for mechanics here in Halifax? A. It is difficult. If you go along Granville and Grafton streets you will see some places not fit for a dog to live in.

Q. Is there any difficulty in getting suitable and comfortable houses in the outskirts of the city? A. No; I do not think there is any in the outskirts.

Q. Would the men have to go very far away from their work? A. Sometimes two miles. I have had to do that myself. It depends on where the work is.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is the difficulty of getting tenements in the central part of the city increasing from year to year? A. I think it is in respectable places.

Q. Could you tell us the cause of that? A. The property in the central part of the city, that is in the business parts, is on the increase in value but on the outskirts it is down in value. It being down out there enables people to get land at a cheaper rate.

JOHN KILLEEN, spinner cotton factory, sworn and examined.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. How long have you been engaged in the Halifax cotton mill. A. A year.

Q. What wages do you receive? A. Some fortnights I get \$3 and some \$2 50.

Q. Can you tell us what makes the difference between the wages paid you fortnightly? A. It is according to what we make and some fortnights we do not make as much as we do in others.

Q. Are you on piece work? A. Yes.

Q. Are there many boys employed in the spinning room with you? A. Yes; there is a good many there.

Q. Any young boys? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know what is the age of the youngest boy? A. There are some there I guess of the age of ten years.

Q. What would those boys of the age of ten do? A. Some of those boys do what they call doffing.

Q. Are they kept constantly employed all the day long? A. Pretty near always.

Q. What time do they go to work? A. Half-past six in the morning.

Q. And leave off when? A. A quarter past six.

Q. What time have they for meals? A. An hour.

Q. That is at dinner time? A. Yes.

Q. Do they ever work after quarter past six o'clock in the evening? A. We do not now; we used to have work after hours.

Q. In what time of the year would they work after hours? A. Sometimes last summer we did.

Q. How long would they keep those boys at work? A. Until a quarter past seven.

Q. Were they allowed out for tea? A. No.

Q. They were kept right on? A. Yes.

Q. What time do you leave on Saturday? A. A quarter to one.

Q. Are there any fines in your room? A. Yes.

Q. What are the fines inflicted for? A. Some for being away from our work and some for being late there.

Q. How much do they fine you when you are late? A. Sometimes five and ten cents.

Q. And for being away from your work? A. The same.

Q. Have you ever paid any fines yourself? A. No; but I was docked sometimes.

Q. For what were your wages docked? A. For being off sometimes.

Q. Can you tell us if any of the boys have ever been fined more than once in a fortnight? A. Yes; I think they have been.

Q. Do you know how much any boy has been fined in a fortnight? A. Some have been fined 50 cents and a dollar in a fortnight.

Q. What would that be for? A. Some for being off.

Q. Any for spoiling work? A. Yes.

Q. Are there any little girls in the room you are in? A. Yes.

Q. Can you tell us what the age of the youngest of these girls would be? A. Some there I guess about 10 and 11.

Q. About what wages do they get, do you know? A. Some of them get from \$3 to \$3.50 for a fortnight.

Q. They are subject to fines too? A. Sometimes they are.

Q. Are the boys and girls well treated? A. Yes.

Q. And in every other respect you are comfortable enough in the factory? A. Yes.

Q. Is there any bad language used towards them? A. No; not any.

Q. Is the factory comfortable? A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever see any of the boys whipped or cuffed? A. No.

Q. Any of the girls? A. No.

Q. They are treated fairly well then? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are the girls worked as long hours as the boys? A. Yes.

Q. Do they go home to their dinner or do they eat it in the room they work in? A. Some go home and some stay there.

Q. Do they eat in the same room as they work in? A. Yes; sometimes.

Q. Is the spinning room very dusty? A. No; not very dusty.

Q. Is there good ventilation—are the windows opened in the summer? A. Sometimes the windows are opened.

Q. Do the boys find it suffocating to work there in the summer time? A. Yes; sometimes.

Q. Are there any rules hung up in the room naming the amount of fines that shall be imposed for certain acts or does the foreman fine the boys any amount he thinks fit? A. Yes.

Q. That is the way it is, it is optional with the foreman? A. Yes.

Q. He names the amount? A. Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. How old are you? A. Fifteen years of age.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Does the foreman tell you when fining you or do you have to wait till pay day? A. We have to wait till pay day.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:

Q. Are there any of the little boys and girls ever discharged? A. Yes; sometimes.

Q. Are they paid at the time they are discharged or do they wait till pay day comes round? A. If they leave they got to give notice and then they are paid.

Q. But if they are discharged? A. I do not think they get any then.

Q. Even when pay day comes round? A. I do not know, I am sure.

Q. Have you known boys who have been discharged and who would not receive the balance of the weekly or fortnightly pay? A. I do not know any.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Are you paid for the time you work after hours? A. No.

Q. You do not get anything then for extra time? A. If we work half an hour or in our dinner hour I do not think we get anything.

Q. But do you get anything for working after hours? A. No.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. If any of the machinery goes wrong in the middle of the day do the boys work after time to make it up? A. No.

ALONZO RAFTER, spinner cotton factory, sworn and examined.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. You are in the same room as the last witness? A. Yes.

Q. Do you agree with all he said? A. No; not at all.

Q. Tell us where you differ with him then? A. About the girls; old spinners average from \$6.80 a fortnight, while some of the small girls average about what he said \$3.

Q. It was the small girls we were then speaking of? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any complaints to make as to your treatment? A. No; only I do not think I am given enough wages.

Q. How many spindles have you to attend to? A. I am not what you call a spinner. I am jobbing like.

Q. What would be your average fortnightly earnings? A. If we make full time we get \$8 a fortnight.

Q. Have you ever paid any fines? No; not lately—I have paid them.

Q. Are fines very frequent? A. No; not very frequent, sometimes they fine you for staying off or anything like that.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are there any of the girls in the spinning room averaging less than \$3 a fortnight? A. I could not exactly tell you, but lots of them average about \$3 or something like that.

Q. They work the same number of hours as the boys? A. Yes.

Q. Is the drinking water in your room handy to be got at? A. No water in the room at all and you have to go down into the bottom flat for water.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Is there any objection made to your going down for water? A. I do not think it is right for us to have to go down there for it.

Q. The little ones on piece work lose time by going down? A. Well, I should think so.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. What flat do you work on? A. The spinning room is on the top flat?

Q. The fourth story? A. The third story.

Q. Supposing the building took fire how can you get down, are there fire escapes outside? Yes.

Q. And is the stairway large and roomy? A. Yes.



By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. Has there been any accident to boys or girls in your room? A. Yes; a few.  
 Q. What nature were they? A. A young fellow got his finger cut off.  
 Q. How old was he? A. About fourteen or fifteen.  
 Q. If boys or girls are hurt are their wages paid to them while they are laid up? A. No.  
 Q. Do they receive anything? A. No.  
 Q. Is the doctor's bill paid? A. No.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

- Q. How old are you? A. Nineteen.

By Mr. KELLY:—

- Q. Are there water closets on the floor where you work? A. Yes.  
 Q. Are the boys and girls separate? A. Yes.  
 Q. Are they built close together in a line? A. They are in a line but separate.  
 Q. Is there any screen between them? A. It is partitioned off—there is brick in between them.  
 Q. Outside the doors are they right in a line? A. Yes; the doors are right in a line.

By Mr. FREED:—

- Q. Do I understand that the brick partition runs outside of the water closets and separates the entrance to them? A. No. It runs between them inside.  
 Q. And the doors stand side by side without any partition? A. Yes; side by side without any partition.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q. Do the little boys and girls have to stand up all day? A. Yes; well, sometimes they have a rest when they are not pushed any.  
 Q. Is that allowed by the foreman? A. No.  
 Q. They have to do it at their own risk? A. Yes.  
 Q. If they are caught sitting down are they fined in any way? A. They are sent to their work. I do not know that they are fined in any way.  
 Q. They are ordered to stand up? A. Yes.  
 Q. Are they censured for sitting down? A. Yes.

THOMAS WATSON, cotton spinner, sworn, and examined.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. What wages do you receive? A. From \$10 to \$11 a week.  
 Q. How many hours in the week do you work? A. Sixty.  
 Q. The same hours as the boys? A. Yes.  
 Q. Is the room that you work in comfortable? A. Yes.  
 Q. Is there care taken in that room to prevent any bad language being used towards the children? A. Yes.  
 Q. Have you ever seen anything in the room that you would consider improper in the treatment of the boys and girls? A. I have not.  
 Q. Can you tell us anything about the fines inflicted? A. Well, I do not know of any fines, only for coming late, neglecting work or showing impudence.  
 Q. Do you think it would be possible to conduct the business without fining the boys and girls? A. Yes; perhaps they might dismiss them.  
 Q. Is there anything you wish to tell the Commission in connection with your business? A. No; I do not know as there is.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q. Are you a foreman? A. No.  
 Q. How long have you been working in cotton mills? A. Thirty years.  
 Q. Here? A. No; not here.  
 Q. How long have you worked in Halifax? A. Between four and five years.  
 Q. Did you work in any other mill in Canada? A. No.  
 Q. Where did you work before you came to Halifax? A. In England.  
 Q. Did you make an engagement in England to come out here and work? A. No;  
 I was sent for a day after I had sailed.  
 Q. You knew you were coming out to work? A. I did not come out to work when I first came.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. Are the mills in this country conducted as well as they are in the old country? A. I think so.  
 Q. Do you think there is as much protection for life and limb? A. Yes; I think so.  
 Q. Are the children as well treated? A. Yes.  
 Q. Are the children employed in the mills in the old country any better educated than they are here? A. They are as good, I cannot say for being better.  
 Q. Can you tell to what age children have to remain at school in England? A. There they have to remain till they have passed the sixth standard, whatever age they are.  
 Q. After a child goes to work in a mill it is compulsory that it should attend school at any part of the day? A. There are half-timers who go one-half of the day to the mill and the other half to school.  
 Q. Are those half-timers kept at school until they pass the sixth standard? A. Yes; they are not allowed to go on full time till then.  
 Q. Do you think a Factory Act such as they have in England would be of any benefit to you in this country? A. Yes; I think it would be a good thing.  
 Q. That is an Act similar to the English Act? A. Yes.  
 Q. Have you any complaints to make in regard to your treatment? A. No.

By Mr. CLARK:—

- Q. Can you earn as much here as in the old country? A. Yes.  
 Q. Can you live as cheaply here? A. Yes; I think so, somewhere about the same.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q. Is the sixth standard in England a higher grade of education than the same standard here? A. I cannot say.

By Mr. KELLY:—

- Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.  
 Q. Have you a family? A. Yes.  
 Q. Had you a family before you left the old country? A. Yes.  
 Q. Did you hire a tenement house there? A. Yes.  
 Q. What rent did you pay there? A. Four shillings a week.  
 Q. What do you pay here? A. About the same, a dollar a week but I have only rooms here.  
 Q. What had you there? How many rooms? A. I had a cottage.  
 Q. How many rooms were there in that cottage? A. Four.  
 Q. Have you as many here in the tenement? A. Here the tenements have three and four rooms.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. Are there many others now living in the same building with you? A. No; only one.

EDWARD GILFOY, carding room employé in Halifax Cotton Mill, sworn and examined.

By Mr. HEAKES :

- Q. How long have you worked there? A. Four years.  
 Q. How old are you now? A. Fifteen.  
 Q. Are there many boys employed in the carding room? A. Yes.  
 Q. Any younger than you? A. Yes.  
 Q. What is about the age of the youngest? A. Twelve or thirteen years of age.  
 Q. Are there any of the girls there younger than that? A. I think there are.  
 Q. You do not know for certain? A. No.  
 Q. What wages do you get? A. \$5.25 a fortnight full time.  
 Q. What wages do the boys and girls who go to work for the first time get—  
 what did you yourself get? A. \$1.50 a week.  
 Q. That is three dollars a fortnight? A. Yes.  
 Q. Are there any fines imposed in your room? A. Yes; sometimes.  
 Q. What are those fines imposed for? A. Sometimes about the machinery  
 getting smashed.  
 Q. And for being late? A. Yes.  
 Q. Are you ever fined for playing? A. Yes; sometimes.  
 Q. I suppose boys and girls there will play sometimes? A. Yes.  
 Q. Are you pretty well treated? A. Yes.  
 Q. Have you ever seen boys or girls getting whipped? A. Yes.  
 Q. What for? A. For playing.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

- Q. Who beat them? A. The boss.  
 Q. Would that be the foreman or the manager? A. The foreman.  
 Q. Did he whip them very hard? A. No; not very.  
 Q. Just gave them a slap? A. Yes.  
 Q. Do you work the same hours as the other witnesses? A. Yes.  
 Q. Do you find it very hard to work so many hours a day? A. I do sometimes  
 feel it pretty hard.  
 Q. You are pretty tired at night? A. Yes.  
 Q. Do you have much time for play? A. No.  
 Q. What time in the morning have you to be up in the winter? A. A quarter  
 to six or six o'clock.  
 Q. How far have you to go to work? A. About a quarter of a mile I think.  
 Q. And if you are late three or four minutes what is said to you? A. If you are  
 late five or ten minutes you are fined for it.  
 Q. Do they allow you five minutes in the morning? A. They blow a horn  
 twenty-five minutes after six and that is so as to allow you to get in—so they say.  
 Q. Have all to be there sharp on 6.30 to start work? A. Yes.  
 Q. You say that you are well treated? A. Yes.  
 Q. Is there any drinking water in your room? A. No.  
 Q. Have you far to go for it? A. It is down in the next flat downstairs.  
 Q. It does not take long to go that far? A. No.

By Mr. FREED :—

- Q. How long did you go to school? A. About three or four years.  
 Q. Did you learn to read and write? A. Yes.  
 Q. Did you learn any arithmetic, grammar or geography? A. No.  
 Q. Do you know any children in the mill not able to read and write? A. Yes.  
 Q. You think there are some? Do you know of them yourself? Are there  
 many? A. Only a few, I think; not many.  
 Q. How old are those children now? A. About 11 or 12, or something like  
 that.



Q. Do you think they never went to school at all? A. I do not know about that.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Have the little girls ever been whipped by the foreman? A. I have not seen any girls whipped.

Q. Have the boys ever been slapped to such an extent that they would cry? A. No; I do not think so.

Q. Have the boys ever been checked for going down too often for drinking water? A. Yes.

Q. Have they been checked by the foreman for going too often, in his opinion, for drinking water? A. Yes.

JOHN MCKAY, picker in cotton factory, sworn and examined.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Is this considered a dangerous employment? A. No; there is nothing dangerous in it unless you are careless about your work in picking.

Q. Are there any young boys working in that room? A. One.

Q. How old would he be? A. About sixteen.

Q. What wages do you get in that place? A. \$6 a week.

Q. What wages does the boy of 16 get? A. \$2.50 a week; \$5 a fortnight.

Q. How many of you are there in that room? A. Five.

Q. Are there any fines imposed in that room? A. No.

Q. Are there any girls employed in that room? A. No.

Q. Have you any complaints to make as to your treatment? A. No; I have not.

Q. Is the place comfortable? A. Yes.

Q. Is it well ventilated? A. Yes; we can ventilate it to our own liking.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Is the dust from the picker carried wholly out of the room? A. Yes; it is carried out under the room to the cellar by fans and what little escapes is not worth speaking of hardly.

PATRICK TUMMINGS, employé in cloth room of Halifax Cotton Company, sworn and examined.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. How long have you been in that department? A. Four years.

Q. What are your wages a week? A. \$4.50.

Q. Are they all boys in that department? A. Yes.

Q. Is that an advanced place for boys to go into? A. No.

Q. Do you have folding machines there? A. Yes.

Q. Who attends to the folding machines? A. A man.

Q. Do any boys attend any? A. One boy; but he does not attend the folder; he attends to the brusher.

Q. How old might this boy be? A. Nineteen.

Q. What wages would he get? A. \$3 a week.

Q. What is the number of hours you work per week? A. Sixty.

Q. Do you work overtime? A. Yes; sometimes, if they are in a rush.

Q. How late at night do they work overtime? A. Eight and half-past eight.

Q. Are they paid extra for that? A. Yes.

- Q. Are they paid at the day rate of wages? A. Yes.  
 Q. Is the room comfortable? A. Yes.  
 Q. Are the conveniences handy? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. Is the work in that room hard? A. It is not very hard, but it is steady.  
 Q. What are you engaged in? A. In wrapping up.  
 Q. You do not find that very hard work? A. No; it is steady.  
 Q. Are any of the boys engaged in carrying the cloth? A. Yes.  
 Q. Do they find it hard work? A. I do not know about their finding it hard.  
 Q. Are those boys well treated? A. Yes; so far as I know of.  
 Q. Are there any fines imposed in your room? A. Now and then.  
 Q. What for? A. Firing things around for one thing.  
 Q. Any other case? A. No; not that I know of.

GEORGE ALNER, weaving room Halifax Cotton Mill, sworn and examined.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. How long have you been at this employment? A. About a year.  
 Q. What wages are you receiving now? A. \$2.50.  
 Q. Are you a weaver or are you only learning to be a weaver? A. I just bring the material to them.  
 Q. Are there many boys working in that room? A. 150.  
 Q. Are there many younger than you? A. Yes.  
 Q. Can you tell us the ages of the youngest of them? A. About ten years of age.  
 A. Do you know if these little boys can read and write? A. I do not.  
 Q. Can you read and write? A. Yes.  
 Q. How long did you go to school? A. About eight years.  
 Q. Have you ever been fined? A. No.  
 Q. Are there little girls working in that room, too? A. Yes.  
 Q. What ages would these be? A. Ten and eleven.  
 Q. Do you know if these little girls were at school before they went to work there? A. No; I do not.  
 Q. Are they well treated? A. Yes.  
 Q. Did you ever see any of them whipped for anything? A. No.  
 Q. Do you find your hours very long? A. Pretty long.  
 Q. You get tired before night? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q. Did you ever work any overtime? A. No; only on Saturday to about half-past one or two o'clock.  
 Q. Are you paid anything extra for that? A. Yes.  
 Q. Do many of the boys and girls eat their meals in the room they work in?  
 A. Yes.

PATRICK JONES, weaving room Halifax Cotton mill, sworn and examined.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. Are you a weaver? A. Yes.  
 Q. How many looms have you charge of? A. Four.  
 Q. Do you find it difficult to attend to four looms? A. No.  
 Q. How much can you earn in a fortnight? A. When running full time I can make from \$8 to \$9; it is piece work.

Q. What kind of goods are you making? A. Cotton goods.

Q. How much a cut do you get? A. It depends on the quality—sometimes from eighteen and a-half cents as far as twenty-seven cents a cut. It would average about 22 cents a cut.

Q. Do you make cotton duck? A. No; we just make the plain cottons.

Q. How many yards are there in a cut of cloth? A. It is reckoned to be fifty yards.

Q. Do you do one each day on each loom? Sometimes we can.

Q. Do you ever get fined? A. Sometimes when we damage the cotton—it is very seldom.

Q. What causes the damage to the cotton? A. Sometimes the machine not being thoroughly cleaned and that blacks it.

Q. Is there any other cause? A. Yes; sometimes we make bad work while weaving.

Q. Is it pretty hard work to run four looms and do the work well? A. As a rule it is easy work; at times, though, it is pretty hard.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. How old are you? A. Seventeen.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:

Q. How long have you been at weaving? A. Four years this fall.

Q. Have you ever worked in any other place outside of Halifax? A. No.

Q. Did you serve your time here? A. Yes; I served my time in the Halifax Cotton Factory.

Q. Did you ever make more than \$8 or \$9 working four looms? A. Not lately as we have been kept for warp and woof.

Q. Do you often earn that much when busy? A. Yes; often when busy I make from \$8 to \$9.

WILLIAM NIGHTINGALE, weaver, sworn and examined.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. How many looms do you run? A. Four.

Q. What can you make in a fortnight? A. If I was kept going I could make \$17 a fortnight.

Q. What would be the average rate of wages you could make in a fortnight, taking the busy times with the dull? A. I should say \$16.50 on an average.

Q. Are there any women in the weaving room who run four looms? A. Yes; lots.

Q. Do they earn the same as the men? A. Yes; and some make more.

Q. What would be the average output on four looms in a day? A. I should say about \$1.25 a week from each loom if they are kept going.

Q. Are there many young girls running looms? A. Yes; a pretty fair number.

Q. Are there many young girls running four looms? A. Yes.

Q. Do they make as much as the men? A. It depends upon your skill; some are a little worse than others.

Q. What are the fines imposed for? A. For neglecting your work sometimes.

Q. For spoilage? A. Yes; for us spoiling the work.

Q. Did you hear the evidence of the last witness who was a weaver? A. Yes.

Q. Have you anything to add to his statement? A. No.



HALIFAX, 7th April, 1888.

S. S. FORREST, of S. S. Forrest & Co., lobster packers, &c., sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What business do you follow? A. Putting up hermetically sealed goods.

Q. Of what nature? A. Fish and meats.

Q. Does lobster packing constitute a large part of your business? A. Yes; the largest part.

Q. State something to the Commission in relation to the lobster fishing business; how it is carried on down the shore and as far as your business is concerned, about how the matter is managed? How many hands do you employ? A. Well, at different seasons we employ different numbers. The greatest number would be from 200 to 225 hands, male and female.

Q. Has that anything to do with the men out fishing? A. Yes; that includes all the hands, those fishing and those packing.

Q. Do you buy any lobsters from persons other than those you send out yourselves? A. Not often; we have to supply the gear for the people we send out.

Q. What wages do those men earn, or tell us what it is for the season? A. Their wages average \$25 to \$40 a month with board and lodging.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Is \$25 the lowest? A. Yes; for men.

Q. What do the women earn? A. They earn \$12 a month, or \$8 with board and lodging. Those living near by board themselves and we pay \$12 or we pay \$8 with board.

By Mr. HEAKES:

Q. Are they always paid in cash? A. Always, except they send orders for goods.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Have you a store of your own? A. No; it is a cash business.

Q. With regard to their board and lodging, are they fairly comfortable? A. They are; they have good houses, plenty of food and good cooks. They are always anxious to come back a second time.

Q. With regard to the morals of the people, how do you find them? A. Their morals are about as good as you find among the laboring class.

Q. Do you know of any bad cases? A. No; I do not.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. There is no reason is there why their morals should not be as good as those of any other class? A. No.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How long are those people able to work? A. Do you mean how many months?

Q. Yes? A. Well, in some places we take them on the first of May, and bring them home the last of October.

Q. You are bound to land them at their homes? A. Yes; and to pay them from the time they start.

Q. Is there much difference between one season and another as regards the lobster fishery? A. Yes; the weather has a good deal to do with it.

Q. Is there any special cause that affects it apart from the weather? A. No; nothing in particular; they are the same as other fish; they take their freaks.

Q. Do you find that the supply is equal to the demand in all cases, or is it simply as large as it was ten years ago? A. No; it is not.

Q. Has it fallen off considerably? A. Yes; 50 per cent. on this shore that has been long fished.

Q. What do you attribute the falling off to? A. To over-fishing.

Q. Have you anything to recommend in that connection? A. I gave my report to the commissioners.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do you own the boarding houses the people live in? A. Yes; everything.

Q. Do the men and the women live in the same houses? A. Yes.

Q. Have you separate closets for the men and women? A. Yes; always.

Q. How are they separated? A. They are in different places; they may be 40, 50 or 100 feet apart.

Q. Have you any children employed? A. Sometimes there may be fourteen or fifteen.

Q. Is there any statement you wish to make in regard to the business? A. Nothing; except in regard to legislation concerning the fisheries, and that is included in the report.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. When the people are not working for you, what other employment do they go to? A. Some work in the mines and some in the woods, and some go to sea. The women, some of them go to service.

Q. Are the men employed in winter? A. Yes; some of them have farms, and in the fall they work them.

Q. As a rule, do the same people come to the factories year after year. A. Yes; of course a man might work with me one year and next year some one else might get him, but I have had men with me twelve years steady.

Q. Have you any difficulty in getting men? A. None whatever, where one man is required there are three offers.

Q. Have wages advanced within ten or fifteen years? A. Yes.

Q. Do you keep can makers employed all the year round? A. Yes.

Q. What wages do they make? A. Two dollars a day. I make all my cans in the city.

Q. How do the prices you pay here compare with those paid in Eastport? A. I think we pay about the same. I had a man lately who has been working in the States, and I think he must have bettered his condition or he would not have come here. Of course he has the season's business before him.

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SAMUEL SHATFORD, Fishing business, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:

Q. You have been engaged for many years fishing along the coast? A. Yes.

Q. You might give the Commission some idea of the manner of following that business along the coast? A. The most fishing that I have had anything to do with was in St. Margaret's Bay, net and seine fishing. I have also been in the North Bay in schooners hooking mackerel.

Q. Do you find much difference now in the mode of fishing to what it was when you first commenced? A. I have not been at it the last twenty years, but about St. Margaret's Bay they fish as usual with seines and nets. No cod fishing is done there except a few bankers that go out.

Q. Is fishing as profitable now as it was ten or fifteen years ago? A. I think it is.

Q. Is mackerel fishing as profitable now as it was then? A. I think so; mackerel bring better prices.

Q. Do you know any special matter that the people employed in fishing along the shore have to complain of? A. I don't know unless it is the scarcity of fish.

Q. Do you think that on an average the men earn as much as they did before? A. I think they earn more. Mackerel bring better prices and the majority of them do better as far as I know.

Q. Is the outfit anything more expensive than it was before? A. I don't think so.

Q. Do the men engaged in fishing live fairly well? A. I think they do.

Q. Is the number of persons engaged increasing? A. I don't think so; that is in St. Margaret's Bay.

Q. From your knowledge along shore have they any other appliances for fishing, or do they differ materially from what they were before? A. Yes.

Q. Are they improved? A. Yes; they have improved salmon nets, traps and other gear that they had not in my day.

Q. Do you consider these an improvement? A. Yes; so far as catching fish is concerned, but it destroys a good many. Those that have them gain by it, but it injures others, I believe.

Q. You confine your business entirely to St. Margaret's Bay? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know anything of other parts? A. No.

Q. You say that you have been in North Bay? A. That was in '60.

Q. As far as you know along our country the fishery is improving? A. I think so; I think it is as profitable as it ever was, and that the people are doing as well.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Can you give us an idea of the earnings of people employed on the Bankers? A. No; I cannot.

LEVI HART, merchant, sworn:

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have you been engaged in the fishing business as a merchant for some time? A. Yes.

Q. Have you been engaged in the West India trade? A. Some, yes.

Q. Has it improved or gone back within your recollection? A. I have not been doing so much in it lately. I think it has gone back a little.

Q. Can you give any specific reason or cause for its going back? A. I do not know that I can, unless it is that the demand abroad is less.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Is it not a fact that a great deal of fish is now sent by steamers to the West Indies? A. Yes; a considerable quantity.

Q. How many lines are there? A. There are several.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. As to the Halifax trade with the West Indies, how is it considered, is it as prosperous as it has been? A. Some years it is; it varies very much.

Q. Did it not vary before? A. Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Is it not an advantage to the consumers to get fish by steamers? A. The passage is short, and the fish is apt to be in better condition. The freights are higher.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Can you give an idea of the number of vessels employed in the West India trade from this city? A. No, I can not; there are some vessels owned and others chartered.

Q. Are you actively engaged in trade at present? A. Not in that trade.



MICHAEL CARNEY of James Butler & Co., merchants, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Will you tell us about how many vessels there are at present engaged in the West India trade from Halifax? A. I could not tell the number.

Q. Can you give us an approximate estimate? A. I suppose there may be 50, or 60, or 70.

Q. Can you tell us whether the West India business is as profitable at the present time as it used to be, and if not why? A. Do you mean this year?

Q. Well, take the average for the past ten years? A. No; I think the past ten years have not been as profitable, but we have had exceptions within that time.

Q. Can you give any specified reason why it has not been as profitable; is there any cause that has led to that result? A. It would be a long story, I am afraid. I suppose that thirteen or fifteen years ago we had no cables, and people out there required fish and must have it; if the market was poor and a cargo got in they did not know whether to expect another for a week or a month or two months, and they were willing to pay long prices. At the present time the merchants out there know every vessel that leaves and the supply is more regular. Merchants expecting arrivals from day to day buy only a small portion of a cargo. I think the business is more steady, but there is less profit.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Since ten years have there not been steamers sailing from New York? A. Yes.

Q. There were none before? A. Yes; there were some, but now freights are down to nothing. The freight on a drum of fish weighing 128 pounds is 73 cents to-day to Havana. They have taken fish from New York for 12½ cents, simply because vessels were going out with other cargo and were willing to take anything to fill up.

Q. Every day makes a difference with a cargo of fish, does it not? A. Yes; the last arrival will command the preference, and a week makes a great difference. I have seen our fish a week after it was landed and could scarcely recognize it.

Q. It soon gets a bad taste? A. No; but they change color.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. From your evidence I would take it that it is not from any local affair here but from the trade being more scattered and from more fish going in at the present time that the markets are not as high as heretofore? A. I do not think it is on account of the influence of any government. I think there had been less fish shipped from here than in former years. I have been in business 23 years and I think that every year the quantity of fish is less. Our inshore fisheries are ever so much less. I think the bank fishery has increased.

Q. What do you consider the cause of the decrease? A. Because the grounds are too much fished. I think from my own knowledge that the saw mills have a good deal to do with it. The dust is being swept out and covering the grounds and it drives them away. Fishermen say that five years ago they caught mackerel close in and now they have to go out 15 miles. There may be some other reasons, but I believe that to be one. It does not destroy the fish but it drives them further away from the shore.

Q. Do you send fish to any other market than the West Indies, say to Brazil? A. No; we have sent to the Mediterranean, and we have been sending largely to New York. The fish is sold to a New York house delivered free on board here.

Q. And do they send it to the West Indies? A. They send it to South America; largely to Panama.

Q. Did you find the voyage to the Mediterranean profitable? A. I do not remember; we had to send there for fruit. The fruit then was brought in sailing vessels, now it is brought in steamers. In sending out the vessels we put in stone ballast and filled up with fish. If we got the first cost for the fish we considered that we did well.

Q. Are you aware that there is a trade from Newfoundland to the Mediterranean and they consider it profitable? A. I do not know of the results, but I have a general idea of the lines that the trade is done on. Their fish is more suitable for that trade than ours.

Q. You consider that the fish along the shore have become scarcer? A. I think that within 25 miles of the shore they have left, but outside of that line they are as plenty as can be. We have dozens of vessels on Brown's Bank. They go out on Monday and fish until Saturday, and go out again Monday or Tuesday.

Q. Have these been successful? A. It is all with the season. Some seasons fish are more plenty than others. Last year and the year before were profitable as regards the quantity of the catch. For these two years the fishermen have done very well.

Q. Do you own schooners or do you hire them? A. We fit them out. Sometimes we may own one, two or three, but as a rule very few are owned by the handlers of fish in Halifax. The contrary is the case at Lockeport, Pubnico and other places.

Q. Is herring as saleable as it used to be? A. Good herring is always saleable. Of course there are a dozen different sorts.

Q. Do Labrador herring come here? A. Yes; but they have been scarce. A good many counterfeits come here.

By Mr. FREED:

Q. Can you tell us anything about the earnings of the men who go fishing? A. In the banking business they are generally on shares and the vessel gets half the gross catch.

Q. How much does the captain get? A. He gets five per cent. more.

Q. About how many men are employed? A. That is according to the tonnage.

Q. What would be the average tonnage? A. 110 tons.

Q. How many men would be employed on a vessel of 110 tons? A. Sometimes 22, or 20 on an average.

Q. What would be a fair season's catch of one of those schooners and the gross value? A. Last year some vessels had 1,800 quintals, which, at \$1 25 a quintal would be \$3,500.

Q. Is that an average price? A. It was last year's price. Sometimes fish only bring \$2.25. Last year they brought \$4.25 and \$4.50.

Q. Out of the catch what would the 20 men receive? How long would they be employed? A. They have been employed from the 1st April to the middle of August for one voyage?

Q. Would a vessel catch \$9,000 in that one voyage? A. Yes; they have done it.

Q. How much of that would the men get? A. Divide 20 into \$4,500 and you get it, less the five per cent. to the captain. There are always some little deductions, for instance there is the question of bait.

Q. That would take something off? A. Not much; I think 10 per cent. would cover it. They would get \$200 a man for 5 months. Sometimes they make two or three voyages.

Q. How long would the second voyage last? A. It may be shorter than the first.

Q. Would it be as profitable? A. Just, if they get a fare.

Q. Could men average \$400 for the two voyages? A. I think a man might or he might do more.

Q. Would \$400 be above or below the average for two voyages? A. I do not think it would be a fair average for last year. We have many smaller bankers; the average tonnage would be from 60 to 70 tons.

Q. For a vessel of 110 tons last year would men making two voyages average \$400? A. I think they would.

Q. And that was more than the average of preceding years? A. No; about three years ago, I think we had a better year.

Q. Do the men get employment in the winter? A. They have farms and are well-to-do generally. Some of them go to the West Indies and others lumbering and lobster fishing.

Q. Are accidents frequent? A. One vessel lost 17 out of 20 men.

Q. Could you give the percentage of losses among all the bankers from Nova Scotia? A. No, I could not.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you know any one that could? A. I do not know; I could not say.

Q. Are the men frequently frost bitten? A. I don't think so; there is no heavy frost after they get on the banks; of course if they were lost in their dories for several days that would be a different case. I have heard of such cases.

Q. What kind of food is taken on board the vessel? A. The very best.

Q. For how long are they provisioned? A. They take Plate beef, clear cut pork, molasses, condensed milk, beets, turnips, potatoes, the best flour, coffee, tea, raisins, and in fact everything. I don't think they could be better off at home.

Q. There is no complaint of bad quality? A. I never heard of such a thing for years. I think they can take the prize for good living.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. About what is the cost of a vessel of 110 tons? A. A vessel in this business ready to take her outfit will cost about \$60 a ton.

Q. That is with sail and all on? A. Yes; all except the fishing outfit.

Q. What would the fishing outfit cost? A. There would be two or three hundred dollars worth of dories, and hawsers which would cost \$600.

Q. What would it cost generally speaking? A. I think the first outfit would cost about \$3,000 and the second year it would be \$2,000 or less.

Q. In other words the vessel with her outfit aboard would be worth \$9,000? A. Yes; fully that.

Q. And in the first year she would earn \$20,000? A. Yes; or she might not earn anything; lots of them cannot strike the fish and come home with a half fare. In a good year she would earn \$9,000, but the year before last she would only earn half that.

WILLIAM JACKSON, veterinary surgeon, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Will you give us some idea of our breeds of horses in this country and the prospects of our being able to furnish horses for the British cavalry, and also what improvement you have noticed during your experience? A. The breed in this country varies from the old Nova Scotia horse, which had very little breed, to the trotter of the present day.

Q. Has the improvement been great? A. I think not.

Q. Tell us what is the matter? A. We have not got the right class of sire horses and mares.

Q. Have you any recommendation to make in that matter as to what we require? A. Yes; we want a different class of stock horses and brood mares.

Q. Have they these in any part of Nova Scotia? A. Well; there is a fair class of trotting stock.

Q. Are there any breeding horses here that we might expect a production from equal to the requirements of the British cavalry? A. No, sir.

Q. Were any horses sold from this part of the country for that purpose? A. Not that I know of.

Q. Then the people of this country will have to alter their stock arrangements to compete favorably with other parts? A. Yes.



Q. Have we facilities for producing such horses if we had the stock? A. Yes; the facilities here are equal to those of any part of the Dominion.

Q. Have you any other suggestion to make in reference to this matter? A. Nothing more than that I would strongly recommend the Government to take the matter in hand and import some first class horses and brood mares; until that is done I think we are far behind the times.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are the farmers of the province paying more attention to stock than to grain and roots? A. In some sections they are.

Q. Is that on the increase? A. Yes.

Q. Then it must be profitable? A. It is.

Q. Can you tell anything about horned cattle? A. That has improved very much. It is in very fair condition.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have we everything to work from as regards stock? A. Yes.

Q. Then the country is in a good condition to compete with others in that respect? A. Yes.

A. N. WHITMAN, merchant, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. You are engaged in the fish business here? A. Yes.

Q. Do you supply vessels? A. I have vessels of my own.

Q. Do you send them to the West Indies? A. In the winter I do; the larger vessels go there.

Q. Where else do they go particularly? A. The vessels go to the Western Bank cod fishing, and to the Grand Banks. I do not do any fishing except cod fishing.

Q. In what markets do you sell your fish? A. The last two or three years I have been using the home markets, and in the winter I ship to the West Indies. Two or three years ago we used the American market, or I did.

Q. Where do you find your home market now? A. We sell here. This is what we call the home market.

Q. To whom do you sell? A. We receive orders from abroad and fill them.

Q. Do you send fish to other markets than the West Indies—to the Mediterranean or to South America? A. No; I do not.

Q. From your knowledge of fishing supplies, and of vessels that go fishing, have you anything to add to Mr. Carney's evidence, which you have heard. Do you agree with what he has said in all particulars? A. No; I do not. I think his estimate of the earnings of the vessels and the men was altogether too large. Perhaps I have had a little closer experience as I own vessels and make up the trips, and it touches my pocket a little more than it does his.

Q. What difference would there be between you? A. Mr. Carney mentioned vessels earning \$9,000; they might stock \$9,000 and a good many of them do but they would not earn that; the expenses would have to be deducted, which would make a vast difference.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. What would the expenses be? A. They are very large. I had a vessel sail only an hour ago, of 140 tons which would be as large as any, and her bills were \$2,400. That is for one trip. She is supposed to make two trips.

Q. Does that include provisions? A. Yes; it includes salt and provisions. She had new dories, cables and so on, which we consider outfit apart from the vessel.

Q. The figures given in relation to the earnings of the men, were they about right? A. They were fully enough. I own three fishing vessels, from 40 to 140 tons, and the principal part of the men are on shares; that is they get half what they catch. From the gross stock of the vessel there is deducted a certain amount, and then there is a division made; half to the vessel and half to the crew. From the vessel's share there is deducted the cook's wages and milk. If you get a copy of the shipping articles you can follow closely the different charges specified there. I generally alter them, as sometimes there are things left out and sometimes things mentioned will have to be erased, but if a vessel stocks \$9,000 for two trips there would be quite a bill of expenses to come off of that.

Q. About how much? A. If the vessel's net earnings for the year, up to the 1st of October are \$2,000, I will be well satisfied; that is \$2,000 clear.

Q. That is after paying wages and everything? A. Yes; that is my share. If I give a man \$175 for the summer the catch would come to me; I would take it in place of their wages.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you employ many men in drying fish? A. Very few permanently.

Q. What do they earn? A. \$1.25 a day.

Q. How constant is the employment? A. During the summer months there is a good deal of work. In the winter there is not much to do. We have the stock in then and have only to deliver it.

Q. Do they get any other employment in the winter when not employed by you? A. In the winter there is more work in connection with the steamers, and quite a number of men get employment there.

Q. Do you use Turk's Island salt? A. No; I use Mediterranean salt, Frapany salt; we consider it better than the West Indies salt.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Would you consider \$3.50 to \$4 high earnings for the men? A. Yes; I would consider it very high. I can hire every man of a crew on an average of \$200.

Q. First class men? A. Yes; first class men.

Q. What would be the length of the year? A. Vessels going now are supposed to be back in Newfoundland by the 15th June, when the capelin strike in. That is the second trip, though some trips will extend to the last of August, and are sometimes along into December. It is only the larger vessels that make one trip. The season would be from the 1st April to the 1st October; the 15th September is the average. Most of the vessels are home by the 1st September from what we call the Grand Bank trip.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Then seven months is the season's work and for that you pay \$200? A. Many of them would get more; I would hire them for that.

Q. Do you feed them well? A. Yes; we give them the best of everything.

By Mr. CLARK:—

Q. Are they mostly married or single? A. Many of them are single.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are the majority of them on wages or on shares? A. The vessel that sailed to-day had 18 men. Eight of them were hired and the rest on shares. I have another vessel with 16 men, all of whom are on shares. The only hired man on board is the cook and the crew pay him.

By Mr. CLARK:—

Q. How many vessels are engaged in the business? A. We have something like 200 sail of vessels from Halifax.

WALTER C. BOAK, merchant, sworn :

By Mr. WALSH :

Q. You are largely interested in the fish business ? A. Quite so.

Q. You have another industry, that is, fresh fish ? A. Yes ; we ship that largely.

Q. About what is the average season for fresh fish in the year ? A. We commence from the middle of November ; from the middle of November until the middle of last month (March).

Q. What amount do you ship ? A. We ship between 200 and 250 tons.

Q. Where do you mostly ship it to ? A. We ship most of it to the Upper Provinces. Most of it to Montreal.

Q. Do you send some to Ontario ? A. Very little. We have not the means of transport. There is too much delay on the road.

Q. If we had cars adapted to the carriage of these things could we send fresh fish without its being packed in ice as far as Montreal ? A. In certain months of the year we could. That is in cold weather. In cold weather we freeze the fish, but in this weather we have to pack it in ice. We can get pretty quick transport by shipping whole cars.

Q. Do you ever ship dried fish to the North-West ? A. Not much beyond Montreal. We ship a little to Hamilton and a little to London.

Q. Where do you ship the principal portion of your dried fish to ? A. We generally sell in this market to West Indians. We find that this is the best market for us. We ship some to Havana and some to Jamaica.

Q. Which do you find the most profitable market ? A. This is the most profitable market ; we know what we are getting.

Q. Is your trade increasing ? A. No ; it is only at certain times we ship.

Q. Taking your whole business, is it increasing or going back ? A. It all depends on the catch the fishermen make. If we do not get the fish we cannot do the business.

Q. If there is a successful year can you get rid of all the fish at paying prices ? A. Generally we can ; sometimes we lose.

Q. Can you give us an idea in relation to the fishing business of any hindrance that might be removed ? Is the business now as successful as you recollect it ? A. The last seven years I think it has been. It all depends upon the number of vessels engaged and the catch.

Q. Can you give us from your own knowledge the average wages a man would earn during the season of 6 or 7 months ? A. It all depends on the success of the trip, the quantity they get and the prices.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. There is nothing sure about it ? A. No ; nothing certain.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. Have you ever known any person who commenced by going on shares before part owner of a vessel ? A. I think in time some of them do.

Q. Do you know of any such person ? A. Yes ; I know of one person who was fishing out of the States for three or four years and has an interest in a vessel. I hear that a good many skippers of Lunenburg vessels have an interest. The advances are generally made by merchants who build the vessels and give them an interest.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Can you give us an idea of the earnings of the men engaged in the inshore fisheries ? No ; it is very hard to say. Some of those in small boats do very well and make four, five or six hundred dollars in a season.



By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How long will the season last? A. They fit out now and end about the middle of October or the first of November.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How many men will they have to a boat? A. About three, the owner and two others.

Q. Will the \$600 be divided among them? A. No; the owner will have that for his own share.

Q. Would that be the average? A. No; it all depends on the man; if he is a good pushing man he will do better than others.

Q. Do the men accumulate property? A. Yes; many of them do.

Q. They own their own houses? A. Yes; such as they are.

Q. What kind of fish do they catch? A. Codfish, herring and mackerel. They make the most of their money out of mackerel.

By Mr. FREED:

Q. Are accidents frequent? A. No.

Q. You do not often hear of loss of life among them? A. No; not often.

Q. What would their season's outfit cost? A. They run bills of from \$300 to \$400.

Q. Every year? A. Generally; yes.

Q. Would that include provisions? A. It would include the living for his family.

Q. Do the shore fishermen live as comfortably as mechanics in Halifax? A. I think so.

Q. Do they own the land? A. Yes; in many cases.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. As a general rule, from the condition of the people and their surroundings, if they are sober and industrious men, have they the opportunity to make a good living and make money? A. They have.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. What would be the value of the houses the fishermen own? A. From \$400 to \$600; that is about what they would cost them.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Are their farms their own? A. In many cases they are; in others they are mortgaged.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Have you any sturgeon fishing on this coast? A. No.

JOHN PATTERSON, boiler maker, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a boiler maker.

Q. How long have you been engaged in that business? A. For myself?

Q. Yes? A. For 14 years.

Q. During that time from your experience has the trade improved anything; that is with regard to advancing generally, or otherwise? A. No; there has been no improvement.

Q. How many men do you employ on an average? A. About 20.

Q. What is about the average wages paid them? A. \$10 a week, and lads \$2 or \$3 a week.

Q. You have no small boys? A. I have only one about 15.

Q. Do you find your men as a rule intelligent and sober? A. Yes.

Q. Have you had some of them with you a long time? A. I have.

Q. Do you take any apprentices? A. Yes.

Q. Do you bind them by any means? A. No; it is very seldom that they finish their time. As soon as they are able to do a day's work they are apt to clear out; so that if I get an intelligent lad and he suits me, good and well, I try to make a man of him.

Q. Have you an idea of the reason why boiler making is not more done here? A. The upper provinces seem to be able to do better in prices. Then our tariff does not suit. The tariff on raw material and on manufactured boilers is not regulated properly.

Q. Where do you get all your iron from? A. Principally from Scotland.

Q. Is there any boiler plate made in this country? A. There is none manufactured here further than nail plate.

Q. So the trade is not increasing in your experience? A. No; we depend largely on repairs. We make a few boilers.

Q. Any boilers that you have made have they turned out according to your expectations? A. Oh, yes.

Q. If everything was equal here we have all the facilities for manufacturing all the boilers here that are required? A. Yes; as good as anywhere else.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is there an inspector of boilers in Halifax? A. None; for land boilers we have much need of it.

Q. Do many accidents happen from the bursting of boilers? A. I have cautioned a few, and accidents have occurred afterwards.

Q. You think it would be a benefit if there was an official inspector? A. Yes. There is a great number of land boilers in Nova Scotia.

Q. Is there not as much necessity for the inspection of boilers on land as at sea? A. Yes; more. They are at liberty to set a boiler down anywhere without any restriction whatever.

Q. Do your men work at night? A. Yes; a good deal.

Q. Are they paid extra for that? A. Yes.

Q. How much? A. A half a day.

Q. How long should apprentices serve? A. Five years.

Q. Do they remain any length of time after serving their apprenticeship? A. Very seldom.

Q. Where do they generally go? A. To the United States; California, Missouri, Boston; they are scattered everywhere.

THOMAS FORHAN, sail maker, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a sail maker.

Q. How many men do you employ in your trade? A. We have ten on hand now, but we have had as high as 18; that is men and boys.

Q. How many boys would you have among the 18. A. About 4.

Q. What would their ages be? A. From 15 upwards.

Q. Would they be apprentices or otherwise? A. Yes.

Q. What wages do journeymen make? A. \$10.50 a week.

Q. What do you give boys? A. We give them \$1.50 a week first, and then raise 50 cents a year.

Q. Do you have them remain with you after the completion of their time? A. Very few.

Q. Do the men remain a long time as a rule? A. Well, they have remained for a long time, but lately there has been a strike or two, and the men who used to be with me are not there now except two of them.

Q. What was the difficulty? A. The first was a strike for an increase of wages which they got, and the next was a strike because they would not work where there were more than three apprentices.

Q. How many apprentices had you? A. I had four.

Q. And this was the cause of the strike? A. It was.

Q. Do you find your men as a rule sober and industrious, and understanding their business thoroughly well? A. Yes.

Q. Have we a good class of sail makers here, generally speaking? A. They are as good as in any part of the world.

Q. Have you men in your employ that have not served their time in Halifax? A. I have had occasionally, but not now.

Q. Where do you get your canvas from? A. Mostly from Yarmouth or from merchants in Halifax.

Q. Do you find that the Yarmouth canvas is equal to any produced elsewhere? A. It is not quite as good as the American duck, but it is very fair duck.

Q. Is there much of it used? A. Yes; quite a lot.

Q. Do the other sail makers use it? A. Yes; we all use it.

Q. Do you believe your trade is increasing or otherwise? A. It is decreasing.

Q. Will you tell us the cause of the decrease? A. There are fewer ships built in the province than there have been.

Q. There are fewer sailing vessels built? A. Yes; trade goes by steamers instead of sailing vessels.

Q. That labor trouble you had did you get it fixed? A. I was forced to employ hands that did not belong to societies, and to work myself as well.

Q. Have you any objection to employing society men in your establishment? A. None at all; but they would not work for me. I have asked them several times and they do not seem inclined to.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do you employ any female labor? A. I do for making flags.

Q. Do they run sewing machines? A. Yes.

Q. What do they earn? A. They get so much a flag when they have it to do. I only employ them occasionally.

G. P. HENRY, cattle dealer, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. We will take your own statement with regard to the cattle business? A. I have been in this cattle trade for thirty years. Since I first started at it, and throughout the time the price of cattle has varied very much. Sometimes it has run down and at other times it has run up, but taking the year 1884 and the month of March of that year in the county where I was purchasing—Antigonish County—cattle were worth that year \$7 a hundred. They brought \$6.25, \$6.50 and \$8 That was the average that cattle were worth that year in Antigonish County. I was sent there to purchase for the troops. That was what they would dress when brought here. The party would have the hides and tallow off that. The purchaser has all the offal, which is worth \$1.20 a hundred taking the average weight, that is the hide, tallow, head, feet, &c. In the year 1872 cattle run up to 9 cents a pound, an advance of a cent and a quarter, at the same time in the year. In the year 1876 they maintained about the same price. In the year 1881 they were back to about \$8. In 1882 they advanced to \$10, and in 1883 they were about \$9. 1884, 1885 and 1886 they fell back again to \$7.50 and \$8. They were the same in 1887. Now, in 1888, they are about 8 cents a pound again at this time of the year.



Q. What was the average per year for that number of years of the cattle exported from this harbor? A. There was no export of cattle to the old country until 1880 from here. It had been going on from Upper Canada since 1876. There was none from here last year. There was no steady export through the months of the spring and summer, but just as shippers could get space. The ships are loaded at Portland, Boston and Baltimore with grain and other dead freights, and called here when the shipper could get them for one or two hundred head, and we had to pay for the vessel making the shift. For instance if she could get all her cargo at one port she would take cattle a dollar a head cheaper than if she had to come here to take cattle. The shipper here was under a disadvantage of a dollar a head as compared with a shipper by a vessel sailing from Boston or Portland at the same time. Besides that the people of this province did not seem to be prepared to ship cattle in the condition in which they should be shipped, and when the cattle arrived in the old country after the fatigue of the voyage they were only fit to go into the grazier's hands to be made up to compare with fat stock, and most every man who did that for a few years lost money. In 1880 I thought there was nothing to do but to grab a lot of cattle and go to England with them and make plenty money. I went through Cornwallis (King's), Annapolis and Sackville, N.B., and purchased 500 head of cattle that we thought would do to take across and would pay us. I struck out on the 21st March, 1880, on board the steamer "Dominion" with 156 head. I had to pay \$5 to \$10 per head, and had to go to Montreal to secure space. I went across myself with the stock and paid every attention to it, and took sufficient help with me. We had a good passage and reached there after a voyage of ten days with no sick or disabled cattle. After passing the inspection we divided the cattle into three parts for Liverpool, Manchester and London, and put them in the hands of a good salesman, and I went to London with 28. He placed them in the hands of a sub-agent. In the morning he offered them for thirty pounds per head to a man who did not buy them. After the man went away I pretended to be a purchaser and bought them at twenty-nine pounds per head. I finally said that I was the owner of the cattle and had bought them to save him from sacrificing them. He said that the cattle would have to be sold for less than that, but in a few hours I sold them for thirty-four pounds sixteen shillings. I only say this to show that men must follow their cattle to the end, and not put them into the hands of agents to do whatever they think best with them. If they cannot do that they had better not invest. My friends at Sackville lost some thousands from purchasing green cattle and getting them on board ship and getting them to England. As far as I can look into the trade it will never be successfully carried on unless in the way of the dead meat business, taking so much space in refrigerator ships, leaving all the offal at home and sending to the foreign market only such as costs the least for transport. There could be a very profitable trade, in my opinion, worked up between the Dominion and the West Indies, such as Bermuda and Jamaica.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Where do they get cattle? A. From New York. While the American war was going on they sent vessels here and sent cattle here, but the agent bought up everything and the people got tired of it, so that I could not get them to enter into the trade.

Q. What number of cattle would they require? A. There are 1,270 troops there who take a pound of meat each a day, all of which goes to New York, that is British money is expended and the Americans reap all the benefit.

Q. If there is no steamer running there what are you to do? A. We should have a steamer to carry cattle and fish to feed the people. The steamers could make a round trip. Further, there is the meat required to supply the navy. Cattle are sent to England, killed at Aldershot and the meat is brought here to Halifax for the navy. That meat should be put up here. There is sufficient cattle in our own country.

Q. Have representations been made to that effect? A. Yes; correspondence is going on now through General Laurie and others. The navy consumes some hundred thousand pounds of meat from the 1st of May to the 1st of November, and all the salt meat they have is packed in Aldershot and distributed to the different stations in casks. They send out enough to supply them for twelve or fifteen months. In the *Morning Herald* of the 24th January there is an article reprinted by Major Cragie, entitled "England's Meat Supply," which shows the increase made and here Canada is maintaining the increase while other countries are falling off.

Q. Who is the writer? A. He is a major of the British army. I think it is the best article on the cattle trade I have ever seen.

Q. It is a report to the Royal Agricultural Society of England? A. Yes; it is a report made by him to them. Last year the trade increased ten thousand head, but we are falling behind in our shipments, both United States and Canada.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What is the reason? A. There has been a disease carrying away some of the cattle; that is one thing, and they are a stock a man cannot go into quickly and get rid of quickly. The lower provinces are well adapted to sheep raising. We have them healthy here—there is no disease among them that I know of.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. What is the best breed of cattle for export to the English market? A. If I was raising stock I would try to have the black cattle and Herefords which seem to be the most in demand. The day I sold they were bringing fifteen when they were not any fatter, but they were full and round and filled the bill better. There was not too much fat on them. People want to get their meat juicy and not too fat; they do not want to pay ten shillings for fat only worth two. The fat stock is useless both for producer, consumer and speculator.

JOHN THOMPSON, broom manufacturer, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What is the extent of your business—how many brooms do you manufacture in the course of a year? A. About five thousand dozen.

Q. Do you make brushes also? A. No; my brother does.

Q. Do you make buckets? A. No.

Q. How many hands do you employ in the broom business. A. About six.

Q. Are these all supposed to be journeymen? A. No; there would be three journeymen at the most.

Q. What would the rest be called? A. Some call them broom finishers; they are helpers.

Q. What wages do your men earn by the week or day? A. They earn from \$7 to \$8 a week.

Q. Do you find the broom trade increasing? A. Yes; I consider that it is. My business is increasing. It is confined to supplying merchants. I supply merchants principally with brooms. I do no business with the country.

Q. You have no market outside? A. No. My business is principally supplying merchants.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Have you any women working at broom making? A. No.

Q. Are your men employed continuously? A. Three months of the year we work eight or nine hours, the rest of the year we work ten.

Q. You have no night? A. Not much; I have tried it, but there is nothing gained by it.

Q. Have you found brooms made by prison labor elsewhere? A. A few were sold here, but they did not make money and gave it up. Brooms were made in the penitentiary at Halifax and in New Brunswick, but when Dorchester Penitentiary was started they gave it up because it did not pay, and they lost money. The thing is to get a competent man to superintend. They had broom makers, but they had no broom manufacturers.

Q. Have brooms made in the Central Prison in Toronto come to Halifax? A. Nelson & Sons have sent some occasionally, but very few come here.

Q. Is the amount you have mentioned the average wage that broom makers make? A. Yes; they average that. They may earn \$9; but they average \$7 or \$8. The helpers average from \$4 to \$5.

Q. Where do you get your corn? A. From Chicago. We first got the corn by way of Boston. It was then \$1.40 a hundred for freight. When the Inter-colonial started we got it at eighty cents through without breaking bulk landed at North Street; but since January, 1887, the freight has gone up. They charge now \$1.10 a hundred all rail, and we find that we can get it cheaper by Boston and the Prince Edward Island steamship. They carry it for 90 cents a hundred. The Inter-colonial Railway and the Grand Trunk have lost that trade as we can get our corn 20 cents a hundred cheaper by way of Boston. We prefer to get it all rail because it then comes without breaking bulk and we take it out of the cars in the same condition that it is shipped in.

By Mr. McLEAN:—

Q. Do you know where Nelson & Sons brooms are made? A. I think in Toronto.

Q. Would you be surprised to learn that they are made in the Central Prison? A. I think I have heard something about it, but not much.

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JOHN DE YOUNG, broom manufacturer, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. You are in the same trade as the last witness? A. I am.

Q. Will you state whether in your experience the trade has increased or otherwise, within the past 10 years? A. Yes; it has increased wonderfully. Before that it was very poor.

Q. How many men are employed in the factory you are connected with? A. We have ten men.

Q. How many brooms do you produce? A. Sometimes 120 dozen a week and sometimes 100 dozen.

Q. What are the average wages of your men? A. They earn as high as \$12 a week.

Q. Where do you get your corn? A. From Chicago.

Q. How do you get it? A. By rail direct and by Boston to this port.

Q. Where do you sell your brooms? A. We have sold in Newfoundland and also in the West Indies. We have sent from 1,000 to 1,200 dozens to Newfoundland and 800 dozen to the West Indies.

Q. Is that trade increasing? A. Yes; if you had the right man in the right place there is a great field for the manufacturer in Halifax.

Q. Can you get all the broom hands you want here? A. Yes.

Q. Are they good workmen? A. Yes; you could not get any better.

Q. Is there anything further that you can tell us? A. I don't know of anything; we have not enough capital to run the business to the extent that it might be carried.



By the CHAIRMAN :

Q. Do you know that brooms are sent here from the Central Prison, Toronto?  
A. Yes; I am sorry to say I do.

Q. Do they come into competition with you? A. Yes; I have known car loads to come here from that very spot.

By Mr. McLEAN :—

Q. Could you employ more men if it were not for that competition? A. Yes; we could employ 50 hands or more.

By Mr. CLARKE :—

Q. Are the brooms made as well as yours? A. They are made well enough. It is pretty hard to compete with the Government.

IRA FERGUSSON, printer, sworn.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Are you a printer? A. Yes.

Q. What branch of the business are you engaged in? A. I am a compositor.

Q. Are you on an evening paper? A. No; on a morning paper.

Q. How many hours of composition have the morning hands in your establishment? A. I should say about nine hours composition on an average all the year around. In the summer time we have very slack times, but in the winter we are very busy while the House is open.

Q. Then you are in the office during the hours of distribution? A. We have two or three hours of distribution in our place.

Q. What would you consider an average night's work for a compositor? How many thousand? Would 8,000 be an average? A. No; I would consider 10,000 an average.

Q. How much a thousand do you get? A. 30 cents.

Q. Do the men if they work six days a week on the morning paper average \$18 a week? A. Yes; they will average that.

Q. Do advertisements and tabular matter go to men on piece work or to the office? A. Yes; everything goes to the men, except if the date of an advertisement is changed—it has to go on the file.

Q. Are advertisements set in the day time? A. Yes; but after six o'clock the piece hands get everything that comes up.

Q. Do many advertisements come in in the afternoon? A. Not a great many. Some pretty fat ones do, though.

Q. Can you speak of other offices? A. No; I do not know anything about them.

Q. Are there many idle printers in Halifax? A. I don't know at present.

Q. Does tabular matter go to the men on piece work? A. Yes; if it is in the office. If there is a table in the matter it goes to the piece hands the same as anything else.

Q. Do standing commercial tables go to the men? A. Yes; but there is a bank stock list that we do not get.

A. Suppose tables contain several columns of words and figures, are they charged so much a thousand? A. We charge four columns of figures, that is our scale price. Four columns of figures a price and a-half.

Q. Do many printers serve their time in the morning room? A. Yes; we have a great many.

Q. How many years do they serve? A. They are supposed to serve five years, but I don't know how long they actually do serve.

Q. Would the Union like to see apprentices indentured? A. I would not answer that question. I can't say.

Q. How do the morning compositors fare as regards wages in comparison with those in St. John? A. I don't know.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. About how many nights a week does a man work? A. As many as he pleases.

Q. What would be the average? A. I can't say. For myself I don't work more than four nights on an average.

Q. If you work 48 hours a week would you earn \$12? A. In that time I am sure that I can earn \$12, and a good deal more.

J. T. WOODS, printer, sworn.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. You are a printer also? A. I am.

Q. Are you a morning compositor? A. I work on an evening paper and a morning paper as well.

Q. In connection with the same establishment? A. Yes.

Q. How many hours a week do you work? A. The average of all the men in the office is about 60 hours a man per week. Some work longer and some less—it all depends on the man.

Q. What would you consider an average week's work. How many hours? A. We work what we call one short week and one long week. The short week is 53 hours and the long week 67 hours. The long week would go from 41 or 42 to 58,000. The short week would go from 30 to 42 or 43,000.

Q. In your long week would you commence at seven o'clock in the morning? A. No, we commence on Saturday. We go to work at nine o'clock on Saturday morning and finish up on the following Saturday morning about four o'clock.

Q. Do you work in the same office as the last witness? A. No.

Q. Taking the long week with the short week what would be your average wages? A. I could not tell that. They would be better able to tell that where they pay the men. Some hands average a great deal smaller than others and others average pretty high.

Q. Do the men on composition on the paper set all the advertisements? A. No.

Q. Do they set them in the evening after six o'clock? A. They set all advertisements barring double column advertisements; it is very seldom we set them after six. The others all go on file.

Q. Do the foreman or the apprentices set them? A. The apprentices set them.

Q. How is it with tabular matter? A. As a rule we get any new table that comes in in the night.

Q. Is there a good feeling existing between the men and the employers throughout the city? A. I am not posted as to the other offices.

Q. Speak as to your own? A. Yes; I think there is.

Q. Has there been any labor trouble in connection with the craft? A. No; not for the past six years.

Q. Have wages increased during the past six years? A. No.

Q. Have they decreased? A. No.

Q. Have you worked outside of Halifax? A. I have worked in Truro.

Q. You have not worked outside of Nova Scotia? A. No.

Q. Is there much idle time during the year? A. No; not much. We did have an idle time before New Year's. We generally do for a month or three weeks then, but during the remainder of the year we are kept going pretty steady eight or nine hours a night.

Q. Your busy season is during the meeting of the Legislature, is it not? A. We are extra busy then.

Q. In the idle time do the men charge the office for waiting time? A. No.

Q. Have you got any other information in connection with the trade that would be of benefit to the commission, or have you any complaints to make? A. No; I have no complaints to make whatever. I am perfectly satisfied.

JOHN SULLIVAN, printer, sworn.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:

Q. You are a printer? A. Yes.

Q. Are you employed on a morning paper? I am employed on both a morning and an evening paper.

Q. Are you employed in the same office as the last witness? A. Yes.

Q. Do you agree with what he has said? A. Decidedly.

Q. Have you anything to add to it? A. No; nothing, except that the office might be better ventilated—that is the only thing that I know of.

Q. What is the sanitary condition of the office? A. It is good; the trouble is that we cannot leave the windows open.

Q. Is the ceiling low? A. No.

Q. Have any accidents happened in the office? A. None, whatever.

Q. You have had no accidents with the slide? A. No.

Q. What is your idea about the apprentice question? Would you like to see the apprentices indentured? A. No; I don't think so.

Q. Have you worked outside of Halifax? A. I worked at St. Johns, Newfoundland, as a boy.

Q. Do you know the standing of the craft in Halifax in comparison with Saint Johns? A. No; I can't say.

Q. Have you any information in relation to the craft to give? A. No.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. How often is the office scrubbed out? A. I could not tell; I never saw it done.

Q. How long have you been working there? A. Six years.

Q. The floor is there yet? A. Yes. As a rule they don't scrub out type sticking offices,

Q. Do the men use much tobacco? A. Yes; considerable.

Q. Are there any spittoons supplied? A. We did have them once, but they sort of got kicked away and we have lost them.

ALEXANDER HODGSON, printer, sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. What branch of the trade do you belong to? A. I am a compositor on a morning paper.

Q. Are you in the same office as the last witness? A. Yes. The same office as John Sullivan.

Q. Have you heard the evidence given by him? A. Yes.

Q. Do you agree with it? A. Yes; in some particulars.

Q. In what particular do you disagree with what he has said? A. There are some who consider that \$9.00 a week is not enough for a weekly hand.

Q. Is that the standard? A. Yes; at present.

Q. Has it ever been more? A. No; it was less.



Q. When did the increase take place? A. Six years ago.

Q. Do you know the wages paid in St. John? A. It is \$10.00 a week, I think.

Q. Do you think the wages large in comparison with the wages of a morning hand? A. No; I do not think so. I would not be able to get along except that I am on piece work.

Q. What are the average wages paid in your office between the morning and evening papers? A. The evening paper averages between \$12 and \$13 a week; and the morning paper averages between \$15 and \$18 a week. Some are lower than others, but that is their own fault.

Q. Is there a good feeling between the employers and the men? A. Yes. There always was. Of course we have had trouble with the men in the office, that is with the foremen who make themselves too officious and did not respect the men properly but we got them out.

Q. Does the same good feeling prevail throughout the trade in Halifax? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any further information to give? A. No; only in regard to the \$9 a week which I think is too low.

Q. Have you ever asked for an increase of the weekly scale? A. I could not say, but I think they are about to ask for \$10 a week.

Q. Can you tell us anything about the general sanitary condition of the offices in Halifax? A. They are in very good condition compared with what they were. Our office has been rebuilt within a few years and is in better condition. It is larger and more airy. They might be better ventilation because we cannot let down the windows as it causes a draught on the lamps and makes them smoke.

Q. What is the light you use gas or oil? A. Oil.

Q. Would the men prefer gas? A. No. At 12 o'clock the gas is turned down. They turn a portion of it off throughout the city and it makes it dark.

Q. Are the lamps filled by the apprentices? A. They are filled by a boy in the office.

DARTMOUTH, 9th April, 1888.

Dr. REID, Superintendent of Mount Hope Asylum, Halifax, N. S., sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Will you have the kindness to give us some detailed account as precisely as you can, of the condition of the asylum, the number of patients, how many are likely to recover, and how many are sent out on an average? A. Well, we have been having an average of 400—half of them are what we call the quieter class—three-fourths of them have no prospect of recovery; and I scarcely think we have accommodation for more than one-quarter of the insane of the province.

Q. Is insanity on the increase? A. Well, I do not know. Insanity is going to increase from natural causes.

Q. How does our proportion of the insane people of this province, in your experience, compare with that of the other provinces? A. If you take the whole of America and England the average would be very nearly the same—from one to three or four hundred. Very little difference to take the whole of the British Provinces.

Q. Is there any evidence of an increase from the increased proportion of the population or otherwise? A. The increase is only from natural causes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Is the increase larger than in proportion to the increase of the population? A. Insanity is hereditary. Insane people have as large families as others. The hereditary taint exists in the family. Members of a family may pass through their whole lives without insanity. We often have brothers and sisters. On account of

some injury, accident, loss of position, or anything interfering with their prospects of life; it may be the result of child bearing, it may be drinking causes influence them which would not have the same effect on others, or tending that way.

Q. That is the probability? A. Yes.

Q. Is there a large class of those who bring it upon themselves—those who have not a natural taint—from drinking or other causes? A. Drinking is not a most frequent cause—it is one of many. When a man is drunk he is insane for the time being. He may render himself absolutely incapable of doing anything. We scarcely look upon that as insanity.

Q. Any increase from alcohol or otherwise? A. The number we have in charge of insane from alcohol is very few. Alcohol is only one of many causes. Alcoholism itself is not insanity, no more than is syphilis. When I say that insanity is likely to increase from natural causes I mean the insane are as likely to have as large families as other people.

Q. Is there any practical way do you think, that you can recommend which could prevent that? A. The only practical way I could recommend—I do not know when society will get to that point, is that when a man or woman is insane they should be prevented from increasing the population, and that is the only means I know of.

Q. Are you able to say whether insanity is greater or less in the mechanical or other laboring classes, or in the professions? A. In going over our list I think insanity is nearly equally distributed over the population. Of course, we have a great many farmers and laborers.

Q. In proportion to the numbers? A. In proportion to the numbers I do not think there is much difference. There is a very great number of those who come to us in the city who are really brought up in the country.

Q. What causes insanity among the farmers? A. I think it is hereditary. There are places in this country where marriage between relations has caused a great deal more than in other countries. These persons may not be insane or diseased, but if there is a defective streak in them in the shape of disease, it is more intensified in their children. That is, two cousins who have a tendency to insanity get married, their issue is more likely to get insane than if they married strangers. Insanity is intensified by inter-marriage. If a father and mother are relations, then the children are far more likely to suffer from any disease the parents are susceptible to, than if the parents were of different blood. This is a law that stock-breeders are aware of. With regard to our labor we have no difficulty at all about getting male attendants. Females we have a difficulty and cannot get them to stay any time. When we get them, they stay a time, then go away to the United States. Our wages are \$15 a month to males, with an increase of \$1 a month until they get \$20 or \$21. This includes board and washing. Female attendants get \$7 a month, with an increase of \$1 a month after each year until the wages be \$10 a month. Very few remain longer than two or three years. We have to take just such as are going. If you want to get a person as an attendant, I prefer one that knows nothing about it. We prefer to train our own attendants. I am pleased on the whole with the class that we have, and I prefer our own people to strangers.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Have you any annual reports? A. Yes; I will send you down some copies.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Have you any information that would be benefit to the Commission? A. Ours is a State institution. As far as I am individually concerned, I know nothing at all of the financial abilities of the patients. The greater number are supported by their counties. We have very few paying patients.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Each county pays for its own insane? A. Yes; each county pays for its own insane.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Have you any form in regard to the entrance of patients? A. The patient's friends make out the forms and the county settles all expenses, except in the case of paying patients. An application is made to two medical men after the "statement" has been submitted; if these certificates are satisfactory, they go to two magistrates of the county, or to the magistrates the municipal authorities delegate to enquire into this matter, they go to them and a warrant is made out. The two medical certificates and warrant go to the Commissioner of Works and Mines, who gives the order of admission. I may say that in looking over a list of 2,300 patients admitted, I do not know of an instance where an improper application has been made. I have seen no attempt to try to get a person put in who was not insane.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Have you any paying patients? A. A few.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are there any patients there that you look upon as emigrants? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What percentage have you? A. I could not tell what percentage.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are the patients admitted immediately after their landing? A. No. From year to year some arrive. We have tried to get several sent back to the old country but failed. We have some there now who did not belong to the province at all.

Q. Do you think they were tainted with insanity before they came over? A. We do not know anything about their history.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Have you any cases where the master of a steamer brought an insane person? A. Yes. Steamers have brought them here to be taken away when they were returning.

Q. What proportion of the number of inmates of the institution go out cured? A. I think on an average from 40 to 50 per cent. of admissions. When you say cured, I wish you to understand that they are as well as ever they were. I think we have discharged nearly one-half of all that have been admitted. For nearly every 100 admitted we have been able to discharge from 40 to 50.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How many wards have you? A. Nineteen wards.

Q. Do you distribute them according to the diseases? A. We have to classify them according to the type of the individual. We classify them with regard to management rather than any special form of disease. For instance we put the quiet in a ward by themselves. The unclean are required to have a ward by themselves.

FRANCIS MUMFORD, iron works, sworn:

By Mr. WALSH:

Q. Will you state your business? A. I have no business at present—I was burnt out last May.

Q. You did not lose your business? A. I did.

Q. You are in the same trade as you ever were? A. No; I am not doing anything.



By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. What business did you follow then? A. We did a fair business manufacturing ship wheels, car axles and everything of that description—a general machine shop.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. That is a new industry in that part of the country? A. There are only two of that class in Nova Scotia.

Q. Did you find sufficient market for your output of these iron things? A. Not since shipping has gone down. There is no shipping in the province at the present time. At first we had a pretty good run when ships were built.

Q. How many men did you employ? A. At that time when ship building was good we had about 30 hands.

Q. What was the average wages of these men, sir? A. Well, they ran from \$1.10 to \$4.00, according to the man. Say a hammer man, he got \$4.00 a day. A good heater sometimes \$3.00. Other machinists from \$9.00 to \$10.00 a week in the machine shop.

Q. Did you find any lack of skilled mechanics? A. We did in the hammer smiths. Machinists were scarce too.

Q. Did you find your trade fairly profitable while in the manufacturing business? A. Not altogether. Competition has run it down. We blame ourselves.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. These are iron axles? A. Car axles.

Q. Made iron? A. Yes. When car axles were \$5 in New York they could be built for less than \$5 here, and there was no need at all of competition and running one another out of the business.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Did you make any steel axles at all? A. I never did.

Q. Have you a notion to start your business fresh again? A. I cannot say.

NATHANIEL EVANS, boiler maker, Dartmouth, N.S., sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What is your business? A. Boiler maker.

Q. Do you find plenty of employment here for boiler making? A. Yes.

Q. Is that trade on the increase? A. I think it is.

Q. What number of hands do you employ in your establishment? A. Now?

Q. Yes, sir? A. About 40.

Q. About what is the average wages of your boilers makers? A. From \$7 to \$12.

Q. Where do you get your boiler plates? A. The old country.

Q. Have you any difficulty in finding such skilled men as you require for boiler making? A. No, sir.

Q. Are your men fairly industrious? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you employ any boys? A. Yes, sir.

Q. What is the age of the youngest? A. I think the youngest is 16.

Q. Do you take them as apprentices under any condition? A. No condition except what work we have to give them.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. No indenture? A. No, sir. I was in Cunard's employ for 16 years. When I started boiler making I took the boys with me. As soon as they are mechanics they leave. We have three in the States getting \$3 a day. We could not pay them that wages. As soon as they begin to be of any use they run away.

Q. How many hours a day do they work? A. Ten hours. Ten hours in the shop, nine hours outside.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do these men who work outside get the same rate per day as those who work inside? A. Yes, sir.

Q. How frequently do you pay your hands? A. One day behind. We pay Saturday. We cannot set up our books until Saturday night. Some are working night work. We always give one day behind.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. You pay them in full and cash? A. Cash every fortnight.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. You work after hours? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you pay them double for over time? A. Any time after six we count two hours to one.

Q. Have you a good deal of work? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. How long does it take a boy to become a mechanic? A. Seven years.

Q. Do boys generally serve seven years? A. Yes, sir. They are supposed to do it.

Q. What rate of wages do you give the first year? A. The first year we take a boy we give him \$1 50 a week, \$2, and sometimes \$3. After that \$1 every year.

Q. Do many men become deaf or hard of hearing? A. Yes, sir. I am hard of hearing.

Q. Is that a common occurrence with boiler makers? A. Yes. Hammering on boilers is the cause of that.

Q. Are there particular men selected to go inside boilers or do they take it in turns? A. No. Just according as they come.

ALFRED SMALLWOOD, Star Manufacturing Co., Dartmouth, N. S., sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Will you please give us some idea of what the Star Manufacturing Company embraces—what industry? A. The manufacture of skates principally, Acme skates, cut nails, spikes, bolts, washers and a large variety of other articles.

Q. How many men do you employ in the various industries? A. From 125 to 130. We have at present 126, I think.

Q. Those that you consider skilled mechanics in their different roles, could you give me an idea of the average wages of these men? A. A skilled mechanic with us gets from \$1.50 to \$2 a day.

Q. Have you men at special work earning anything beyond that? A. Well, we have a large number of our men working on piece work.

Q. Kindly give us an idea of what these men make at piece work? A. They make from \$1.75 to \$2.25. I may state, however, that a number of these men have a boy to pay—the man hires the boy and pays him.

Q. At what industry among those employed by you do the men get the highest pay? A. Well, skilled mechanics making dies or punching out steel plate work are the highest paid that we have.

Q. Have you many boys employed? A. Yes; we have quite a number.

Q. What ages are they? A. I do not think we have any younger than 14. I am pretty sure we have not.

Q. What salaries do these boys get? A. The smallest pay that we give is \$2 per week. We advance them as they become more expert.

Q. Has your output of skates materially diminished from what it used to be? A. No; it is as large as ever it was.

Q. Would you kindly tell us where you find markets for these acme skates? A. They go nearly all over the world, where it is cold enough to skate. We sell skates in France, Russia, Yokohama, Japan, all over the Dominion, and all over the Continent of Europe.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. All ice skates? A. Yes, sir.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is the skate completely iron? A. We have made a few pairs of those during the winter—the long reach skate 15 inches long. We have never made them as a staple article to put on the market.

Q. Do you make many of them? No.

Q. Where do you get your wood for that kind of skate? A. Canadian wood.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Are the prices of these acme skates decreased or otherwise? A. Decreased.

Q. Are they made under a patent? A. Yes; sir.

Q. Has it expired? A. About expired.

Q. Are there any other skates manufactured under the same patent elsewhere except what you manufacture yourself? A. Yes; there are skates made under the same patent elsewhere. They have stolen our pattern. They come very near it. I can always detect whether it is our skate or not.

Q. Do you make sufficient for the market, for your output? A. Well, we could make a good many more.

Q. You make steel nails—do you find the demand increasing? A. Well, we do not find any material increase.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What do you use for these steel nails, old rails? A. We import the steel rail plate. We import some and get some in this country.

Q. You do not make your own plate? A. No.

Q. What is the price of the acme skate to-day compared with what it was ten years ago? A. Well, I could not tell you that. I never had anything to do with the selling—I am not in a position to state. I know they are much less now than they were. When I first had anything to do with the hardware business they sold for \$6.00 and \$7.50 a pair. I believe they are sold over the counter now, the same quality, at \$1.75.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q. How far back? A. Twenty-three or twenty-five years ago.

Q. Are you able to tell us what these skates sold for ten years ago? A. Well, I could tell very nearly. They retailed for about \$3.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is the iron that you use principally Canadian? A. The skates are made of steel.



GEORGE W. C. OLAND, brewer, of S. Oland, Sons & Co., Dartmouth, N.S., sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Will you please state your business? A. Brewer.

Q. How long have you been engaged in that business? A. Since 1866.

Q. Do you find your trade in that business increasing or otherwise? A. Well, it increased up to about 18 months, or about 12 months ago, when this last Liquor Licence Act was passed.

Q. Where do you find a market or markets for what you manufacture? In the West Indies, also the country here; all through the Province of Nova Scotia, Canada, St. John, N.B., Newfoundland.

Q. How many men do you employ in your establishment? A. Well, at present I think we have about 15 or 20.

Q. All told? A. All told.

Q. Would you kindly give us the rate you pay skilled men? A. \$7 to \$8.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. A week? A. Yes, sir.

Q. You employ a large number to labor? A. Yes, sir; we pay \$6 to them.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Is that wage permanent; do they lose any time during the year? A. No; they are paid like a yearly salary for the work they do. If the men lose any time they make it up.

Q. Do you find your men strictly honest, industrious and comparing favorably with other men? A. Yes; I think so.

Q. Have you had any labor difficulty in your establishment? A. No; none to speak of.

Q. Do you do your own malting? A. Yes sir.

Q. Where do you import your malt from? A. Principally Canada.

Q. When you talk of Canada, you mean Ontario? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you get much malt from Ontario? A. About 500 bushels a week.

Q. What are the wages given to a malster? A. \$8 a week.

Q. How many months, all the year around? A. \$7 all the year around.

Q. How many do you keep? A. Two men.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you export any beer to the upper provinces? A. No.

Q. You do not send as far as Ontario? A. No; we send to the borders.

G. J. K. RUSSELL, tinsmith, Dartmouth, N.S., sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Will you please, Mr. Russell, state what business you are employed in? A. Tinsmithing and sheet iron work.

Q. Do you do a good deal of that in Dartmouth? A. The principal part of our business is making fish cans.

Q. Do you find that business increasing? A. Yes; that has been on the increase still.

Q. How many men do you employ? A. During the season we employ nine—that is the busy season for the canning business.

Q. What do you call the busy season? A. From now until the 1st of July.

Q. What occupation have you for your men afterwards, or do you employ them all the time making up tinware? A. We do not employ all of them.

Q. What wages do you pay your hands generally? A. \$1.25 a day. A good many do piece work and make more.

Q. What do they generally make at piece work? A. \$1.75.

Q. Do you sell these fish cans here? A. All around the coast, and in Prince Edward Island.

Q. Do you find there are more used now than formerly? A. We have always found the last two or three years that we could sell all we could make.

Q. Are not some of these cans made in the lobster factories? A. The largest packers make them themselves.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Have you any boys employed in making fish cans? A. A few.

Q. Do the boys make the can? A. The boys only help.

Q. What wages do they earn a week? A. Some \$2.25.

Q. Do they work ten hours a day? A. Yes.

Q. Do you employ any girls? A. No.

Q. How old is the youngest boy? A. About 15, sometime in December.

ALEXANDER HUTT, carriage builder, Dartmouth, N.S., sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How long have you been in the carriage business? A. Eight years.

Q. Your trade is carried on entirely in Dartmouth? A. Through the country. We send a carriage wherever we can.

Q. What number of men do you employ generally? A. Eight.

Q. Where do you get your wood? A. Well, we get some American. Our best qualities are American.

Q. What kind of wood do you use? A. Ash, oak, beech; light work, ash.

Q. Do you get any hickory from Canada at all? A. No; for spokes we have.

Q. What wages do you pay your men? A. \$1.50, \$1.75 and \$1.85,

Q. Do you do all your own blacksmithing? A. Yes, sir.

Q. What do you pay your blacksmiths? A. \$1.25.

Q. Do you find a ready sale for what you manufacture? A. Pretty much. We do considerably repairing.

Q. Any upholstering? A. Not very much.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Have you any competition from carriages in the west? A. Too much.

Q. Do you find it interferes with trade? A. Yes, sir.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Are any carriages made in St. John? A. West of St. John?

Q. Any in St. John? A. We have very much poorer carriages from St. John.

Q. Only in Ontario? A. I would be very much pleased if they kept them there.

Q. In the provincial gaol do they make any carriages? A. No, sir. We have no prison labor.

Q. You pay wood-workers about what? A. I only keep a heavy wood-worker. I pay him \$1.50.

Q. Do you get Canadian spokes? A. We do not use many Canadian.

Q. Are the axles and springs made in Canada? A. Yes; the St. John people make the springs—a large portion; some few we make ourselves.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Is this oak Nova Scotian oak? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Birch ? A. Yes.

Q. Ash ? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Does white ash grow around here ? A. Not very much.

Q. What does it cost you a thousand ? A. \$40.

Q. Birch ? A. From \$10 to \$15.

Q. Have you had any trouble in the shop with men striking for wages ? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is your shop pretty roomy ? A. 40 feet by 60.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. How many hours a day do your men work ? A. Ten hours.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. Work on Saturday ? A. Six days right through.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. How frequently do you pay your hands ? A. Every Saturday.

Q. In full to date ? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Cash ? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know any hands in town that are paid by store orders or anything of that sort ? A. Not to my knowledge.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. Do you find your men steady and sober ? A. Yes, sir ; I do not keep them unless they are.

Q. You have no need of the Scott Act ? A. No, sir ; we have no liquor sold under license in this town at all.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. None of your employes ever get drunk ? A. Not in daylight.

Q. Is there much drunkenness here ? A. Very little at present.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. You are not troubled by your hands getting drunk ? A. No, sir ; I do not keep a man that drinks.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. I suppose you have had hands that drank ? A. I had a man who used to get drunk every four or five weeks, but he is strictly temperate now. Of course we have it to contend with that a good many will go over to the other side and get it.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. That is Halifax ? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. In this place is the population increasing or is it holding its own ? A. I think rather increasing. I could give you the exact figures.

Q. How long have you been in business ? A. Eight years.

Q. You belong here ? A. I was born nine miles from here. In 1880 I came to town.

JOHN F. STAIRS, rope works, Dartmouth, N.S., sworn.

By Mr. WALSH :—

You are the proprietor of the Dartmouth Rope Works ? A. One of them.

Q. Who manages it ? A. The management for the last two or three years of the works has been more attended to by my brother—he is on the jury now.



Q. How many hands do you employ in your rope factory? A. We have a good many on—I have a memorandum here. We have 160 men in the day time.

Q. How many in the night? A. About 62.

Q. What is the highest wages given to skilled men? A. We do not have a great many skilled men until we come to the foremen.

Q. Do you have only one general foreman? No; we have a great many other men.

Q. Let us have the first foreman? A. Outside of machinists and that class of men we pay \$7.00.

Q. What do the departmental men get? A. They get about \$1.50 a day.

Q. And what do you pay to your average hands? A. We do not pay our ordinary men that are not skilled more than \$1.00 a day.

Q. How many hours do they work? A. Ten hours.

Q. Is this work continued all the year around? A. Yes; pretty steadily. Sometimes as in other factories we have to knock a good many off.

Q. With regard to the night hands what are these men generally paid? A. We generally pay them now the same wages as we pay the day men per week. The night hands work 11 hours a night—about 55 hours a week.

Q. What wages do you pay the female hands you have—or is it by piece work? A. No, not by piece work. The female hands we pay generally \$3 and \$3.75 a week.

Q. What do you take them on at first at? A. They commence at \$2.50 a week. That is only for a week or two.

Q. Have you any small boys or girls? A. We have very few small girls. I think we have very few under 20. I think we have a good many small boys. We never intend to have boys under 15.

Q. Do you find that your trade is increasing now? A. Our trade has increased the last few years.

Q. Where do you find a market for your output? A. In the Maritime Provinces.

Q. Your general output? A. Cordage, &c., all go into the provinces. We send a little to Ontario. Binder twine we send to Ontario, and the North West and Manitoba.

Q. Has that trade developed itself largely? A. That trade has grown up during this last eight years. It is increasing in Canada rapidly. When I speak of the Dominion as increasing, that means really in Ontario, Manitoba and the North West. There is no binder twine used in the Maritime Provinces, no more than a few tons.

Q. Have you men and women working in the same rooms? A. The women work pretty much in separate rooms. Of course we have men and boys around doing work that women cannot do, packing, oiling, &c.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Have you separate conveniences for men and women? A. We have. All the men and boys go out. The women have their conveniences. We only have women in two rooms—they have their conveniences there.

Q. Are females permitted to sit down any part of the day? A. Yes; part of the time they can sit.

Q. Are there any fines inflicted on them? A. No; we have no system of fines at all. It is a pretty hard thing to run a factory without fines. If you do not fine them it is a difficult matter to say what you can do with them. Still we generally manage to get along as well as we can without fines.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Have you got much competition in the manufacture of binder twine in the United States? A. None whatever. We have sent a considerable quantity of the binder twine into the United States this season.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Is some sold in Minnesota and Montana—binder twine manufactured in Canada? A. Some years I think we sent 150 tons into the United States. I think some has gone across our border from Ontario into the United States.

Q. Who is the largest purchaser in Ontario? A. I presume it would be Harris of Brantford and Mayer, of Toronto.

Q. Do you have females working night work? A. Yes, sir.

Q. What proportion? A. I think about 12 at night.

Q. These live within a convenient distance of your own place? A. Some have to come from town. We have not been able to get enough in Dartmouth—we have to draw from the city.

Q. Do they work all night? A. They work from a few minutes after six until half-past five, half an hour intermission. They work five nights in the week—they do not work Saturday night at all.

Q. Is the Canadian made article as cheap and as good as the American article? A. I think it is better.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you discharge many hands during the year? A. We have to some extent. We have after our binder business is over.

Q. Have you discharged any lately? A. No; we may have discharged one or two. We have been taking on hands as a general thing lately.

Q. Do you ascertain the ages of the small boys and girls? A. We have so few small boys, and for that matter I do not think we have any small girls. Of course we do.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. You have no law in the province? A. No.

Q. Have you discharged a number of small children within the last fortnight? A. I have no idea.

Q. Could there be 14 discharged without your knowing it? A. I suppose so.

Q. Do you know the cause? A. No; I suppose not doing the work.

Q. I suppose your manager would not discharge a boy if he did the work? A. No he would not discharge him if he did the work. Of course we have a good many boys coming over from Halifax going into factory work which they soon get sick of. They get tired of it and do not do their work, and it takes us a month or two months afterward to weed out those that suit us.

Q. You do not know of any of the small boys being discharged on account of the Commission sitting in Halifax? A. No; there was none knew about the Commission except ourselves. The foreman would not know anything about the Commission.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Has your price risen or fallen within the last few years? A. You might as well discuss it in New York.

Q. How do your prices compare with the prices in the United States for home consumption? A. Our prices are much lower for home consumption. Our prices to-day are scaled the same as in England.

Q. Is much binder twine made in England? A. I thought you were speaking of cordage. Our prices are lower than the American, taking one season with another.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you feel your business susceptible of any drawback to your output? A. It has affected our output a good deal the last few years, though I think there has been an increase in the general trade.

Q. In cordage? A. Yes, sir. One thing I wish to explain. I do not want to leave the Commissioners under a wrong impression. Our day hands are working ten hours. Our day hands are sometimes worked 14 hours, but we pay them extra. When they work four hours overtime we pay them five hours. Our trade is of such a peculiar nature. Our deliveries of binder twine are going to take place from now until the end of July. It is important for us not to have our machinery lying idle nine months during the year. I do not think the hands dislike it very much.

Q. You work extra hours sometimes in the winter too? A. No; we do not except for our spring trade. This binder twine trade comes in the spring and we have to get it out.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. You cannot get an order six months ahead? A. We cannot get it before the 1st of June. We do make a good deal for stock. Manilla hemp is a very fluctuating thing.

Q. Your hands have to work 14 hours? A. Yes, sir; we try to make it as easy as we can.

Q. What time are they allowed for meals? A. An hour in mid-day and half an hour in the evening.

Q. Are they supposed to eat their meals in the mill? A. They can go out. As a matter of fact most of those do not go home.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. With regard to the factory itself—how is the sanitary condition of the factory? Is every pains taken to have the place free from dust, &c.? A. Well, I think so. Our spinning yarns from Russian hemp is very dusty. Spinning manilla hemp, however, has very little dust. I think the hands do not suffer much from the dust.

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J. W. ALLISON, of John P. Mott & Co., soap manufacturers, Dartmouth, N.S., sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Mr. Allison please state what you are employed at? A. John P. Mott & Co., grinders and manufacturers of soaps, coffees, &c.

Q. Have you much competition in this business of yours, Mr Allison? A. We have a great deal of competition in the soap line, very extensive both in the upper and lower provinces, so much so perhaps that it has cut down the profit on soaps. In soaps we have a fair amount of competition from all quarters of the Dominion.

Q. Has your output diminished to any considerable extent on account of that competition within the last five years? A. Our output I suppose has diminished.

Q. In what ratio? A. I cannot say exactly. I suppose about twenty-five per cent. less.

Q. What kind of soap do you manufacture generally? A. Principally the ordinary laundry soaps—toilet soaps to a small extent.

Q. Where do you find a market for your soaps generally—is it a local market? A. In the Maritime Provinces.

Q. Your chocolates—for a long time you had that business nearly to yourselves? A. The consumption of chocolate in the Dominion has increased steadily for some years past. Our trade has increased accordingly with it.

Q. Candles have gone back altogether? A. Yes, altogether. Some cheap candles are used in mines. We manufacture for mining purposes principally.

Q. Do you manufacture much? A. Not compared with what we did.

Q. Do you find your general trade as profitable as what you have been doing heretofore? A. No; as to what it was five or six years ago taking it on an average.

Q. Is that owing to competition? A. Yes; to reduced prices.



Q. Do you send any to Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland? A. Not much.

Q. St. John's I suppose? A. Yes. We send to the island, all over the island.

Q. As a whole with regard to what you manufacture, taking all into consideration, do you manufacture as much now as you did five years ago? A. I should think about the same.

Q. Well, when you speak about the same for all your output, is that output as favorable to your pocket, financially, as it was five years ago? A. No. The prices are cut down so that the profit is small, although the output may be the same.

Q. How many men have you employed in your industry? A. About thirty. Twenty men; ten women.

Q. Is the employment regular? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What wages do you pay the women? A. We pay them \$3 as a regular wage. Perhaps a little more to some of them. Smaller girls get less.

Q. How small is the smallest? A. About 15.

Q. How many female employés have you altogether? A. Nine or ten altogether.

Q. Do they work at night work at any time? A. No night work. There is no time when we have to work over hours.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What wages do you pay your soap boilers? A. We only pay about \$9 a week.

Q. Do they do the crushing too? A. We crush by machinery.

Q. Does your firm make laundry soap? A. Yes.

Q. Do any of the boys work the press? A. No; it is a steam press.

Q. What work are the girls engaged at? A. In the spice department.

Q. Do any of them work in the soap factory? A. A few wrapping.

Q. Do you make your own box work? A. Yes.

Q. What earnings do the box makers get? A. They earn about \$3 per week.

Q. Do you work your hands steadily all the year around? A. Yes.

Q. Do you ever work overtime? A. Not for the past year.

Q. Have you separate conveniences for male and female? A. We have. Females have their water closets in the press room. The men have no access—they go outside.

Q. What hours do they work? A. The girls work nine hours; the men ten hours.

Q. Any time off on Saturday? A. Same on Saturday as any other day.

Q. Pay day every week? A. Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Where do you import your stock from? A. Direct from the West Indies. We import from the place of growth—from all parts—Dominique, Jamaica. Coco from Trinidad, South America, Bahia, &c. Some we have to get from the English market.

WILLIAM H. GREEN, livery stable keeper, Dartmouth, N.S., sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What hands do you employ, Mr. Green? A. We have about six or seven stable men.

Q. Now give us some account of the livery business—whether it is better now than it has been? A. Our livery business is not as good as it was some years ago. I suppose it is on account of more at it than when I first started it.

A—11½\*\*

Q. What is the price of wood and coal here? A. Sydney coal about \$6 a chaldron; Acadia mine and Pictou \$6 a chaldron—\$4 a ton.

Q. Is the coal cheaper now or dearer than it has been heretofore? A. About the same price.

Q. What is the price of wood here? A. \$4 a cord.

Q. Hardwood? A. Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Has that changed? A. No, sir.

Q. Is keeping horses and matters of that kind the same as it has been heretofore? A. About the same.

Q. Is there any difference in the class of horses? A. A better class of horses at present.

Q. Do you think the class of horses we have compare favorably with those of any other city you know of? A. They compare just as favorably, perhaps not so large.

Q. Do your men work late in the nights? A. Sometimes they have to.

Q. Do you give them any extra pay? A. No, sir.

Q. You employ them all the year around? A. Yes, sir.

Q. About what wages do you give them? \$7 a week.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What time do they go to work in the morning? A. About six o'clock.

Q. What time do they leave off at night? A. It depends upon what time they get through.

Q. Paid for all wet weather? A. Yes, sir.

Q. What do your stablemen get? A. The same wages.

Q. Do they remain in the stables all night? A. No, sir. They may during a rare night in winter—big drive—they have a house of their own.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. What would be the difference in the keep of an ordinary large sized horse compared with an ordinary small one—or two ordinary small ones? A. I do not think there is any difference. I find my small horses eat as much as my large ones.

STANLEY SWAINE, manager of the Dartmouth Ferry Co., Halifax, N.S., sworn.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. What industry do you represent, Mr. Swaine? A. I am manager of the Dartmouth Ferry Company.

Q. Will you kindly tell us how many men you employ altogether? A. Twenty.

Q. About twenty? A. Yes, sir.

Q. How many are connected with the boat? A. Ten.

Q. The balance at the works at Dartmouth? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Those men that run on the boats what wages do you give them? A. \$7.50 a week.

Q. What hours do they work? A. Ten hours.

Q. What do your hands on board the boat get? A. Carpenter and mates get \$9 a week; engineer \$45; firemen \$7.50 a week.

Q. Are your engineers men with certificates? A. Yes, sir.

Q. All practical men? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you had any accidents on board your boats? A. No, sir.

Q. Not during your time? A. Not during my time.

Q. The men on the steamers do they work late? A. Yes.

Q. What is their hours of working; do they relieve one another? A. They relieve each other weekly. One crew takes the short route from 6 in the morning until a quarter to seven in the evening. The other crew comes at 8 o'clock and stays until 12 o'clock at night.

Q. Do you find the passenger trade on the ferry increasing? A. Slightly.

Q. But it does increase? A. Yes, sir.

Q. How long have you been connected with the ferry? A. Three years.

Q. You hire your boats out to excursions? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know if your captains and all those connected with the boats are particular with regard to the number of passengers they should carry? A. Yes, sir. There is difficulty in keeping count of a certain number.

Q. They try as well as they can to keep within the law? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you ever had any trouble with your men in the boats? A. No, sir. All are old men who have been there a number of years.

Q. Have you made any improvements lately in your boats? A. Yes, sir; during the last year, since the new company has been formed. They are building a new boat.

Q. When do you expect to have her on? A. The first of June. She is much larger.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. How many holidays do the employés on the boats have? A. Two days.

Q. How many Sundays do they have? A. Every other Sunday.

Q. What pay do females in the office receive? A. \$4 a week.

Q. How many hours please? A. We have two who work about six hours each. In Halifax they have two ticket sellers, one comes down at the first boat and stays until noon; and the other stays until the last trip at night.

Q. Both receive the same wages? A. Yes, sir.

Q. They change weekly? A. Yes, sir.

Q. How old are these boats? A. I cannot tell you the exact age.

Q. Have there been any new boats put on during the last twenty-five years.

A. One.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you make any reduced rates for persons living in Dartmouth? A. Yes, sir.

Q. What would these rates be so as to allow a mechanic working in Dartmouth going over in the morning and returning in the evening? A. He can get a quarterly ticket for \$4.50.

Q. Are rents cheaper in Dartmouth compared with those in Halifax? A. I do not know.

Q. You cannot give us any information? A. No, sir.

Q. How often will the ticket permit him to pass? A. Every boat.

Q. Whenever he pleases? A. Yes, sir.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Is that the cheapest ticket? Q. We have a mechanic's ticket which sells for \$1 that you can use between the hours of 6 and 8 in the morning and 5 and 7 in the evening.

Q. Many live in Dartmouth who work in Halifax? A. A great many.

Q. What is the earliest boat you despatch in the morning? A. 5.30 in winter, 6.30 in summer.

Q. How late do they run at night? A. 12 o'clock.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. All the year round? A. The last boat leaves Halifax at 11.30 and lies up at 12 o'clock.



Q. How frequently are your boats stopped or delayed on account of the ice? A. Since I have been connected with the ferry, one day.

Q. Often delayed by fog? A. No.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have you all appliances on the boats in case of accident? A. We have to have them.

SAMUEL MCCARTHY, baker, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your business? A. Baker.

Q. How long have you been employed at that business? A. For 25 years.

Q. Give us some idea of the hours a baker works in the city of Halifax? A. Well, they go to work at three o'clock in the morning and work sometimes until four, five and six o'clock and so on.

Q. Do you ever work after six o'clock in the evening? A. At times we have done so.

Q. How many hours constitute a day's work with bakers? A. There are no fixed hours.

Q. You go to work at three o'clock in the morning and leave off when you are through? A. Yes.

Q. Suppose one or two men are sick how would that affect the others? A. They would have to work longer.

Q. Would they receive anything extra for that? A. Sometimes they would, but not always.

Q. Suppose a baker went home at three or four o'clock in the afternoon would he lose any time? A. No.

Q. How much money would you receive for working the hours you have mentioned, from 3 o'clock in the morning until 6 o'clock at night? A. \$7.

Q. Seven dollars a week? A. Yes.

Q. Is that the general rate of wages paid to soft bread bakers? A. In some places it is more.

Q. Do you know of any men who work that number of hours for less? A. No.

Q. As a rule do you find the shops comfortable to work in? A. Yes.

Q. Do you heat your ovens with wood or coal? A. With coal.

Q. Do you ever find any inconvenience from the sulphur? A. There was some until a year ago, but the trouble was remedied and there is none now.

Q. You have no complaints on that account now? A. No; not now.

Q. Are the shops healthy? A. Yes.

Q. Are they well ventilated and comfortable generally? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. When you go to work in the morning at what time do you quit for breakfast? A. At 8 o'clock or sometimes at 9.

Q. What time have you for breakfast? A. There is no limited time. You just get your breakfast and get back as soon as you can.

Q. How long do you remain until dinner? A. Sometimes until one o'clock and sometimes until later.

Q. When you go to dinner how long have you? A. You get back as quick as you can.

Q. Do you have an hour for dinner? A. Sometimes we do and sometimes we don't. As a rule we can take an hour.

Q. Then you have to work until six o'clock? A. Yes.

Q. While you are in the bakery are you kept constantly employed? A. No; at times we have to wait for the dough to rise.

Q. But it is necessary that you should be there all these hours? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Are the wages the same in winter as in summer? A. Yes.

Q. When you want to leave during the day do you have to send for some one to take your place? A. No.

Q. Do you know if that is ever done? A. In the morning if you do not want to go to work you get a jobber in your place.

Q. Suppose you do not send a jobber, what would be the consequences? A. The foreman of the shop would send for a jobber.

Q. Have you ever worked as long as until 10 or 11 before going to breakfast? A. Not of late years.

Q. It has been done? A. Yes; in former years.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. That was years ago? A. Yes.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Has there been an improvement in wages with bakers during the past few years? A. There has.

Q. When did it take place? A. I think somewhere about 18 or 20 years ago.

Q. There has been no increase since then? A. Very little.

Q. Has there been an increase in the price of bread during the past 20 years? A. Yes; at times,

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. That depends upon the price of flour does it not? A. Yes.

By Mr. CARSON:—

Q. Is \$7 a week the average wages received by bakers in Halifax? A. No; in some shops they get better wages than that.

Q. What would be the average wages? A. I suppose about \$8.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Did you ever work in any other city? A. No.

Q. You don't know then the rate of wages paid elsewhere? A. No.

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HALIFAX, 9th April, 1888.

THOMAS SPELMAN, City Fire Department, sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am in the city employ; I am connected with the fire department.

Q. What is your duty? A. I look after the apparatus.

Q. Have you purchased any horses? A. Yes.

Q. How do the horses of Nova Scotia compare with those of New Brunswick and other Provinces? A. I think they have fully as good a class of horses in Prince Edward Island as we have in Nova Scotia; they have paid more attention to breeding.

Q. Has the class of horses here made any improvement? A. I do not think they have until recently. I think they are improving now.

Q. How would the horses raised in Nova Scotia do for military purposes and for general trucking and so on? A. As a rule we do not raise the class of horses re-

quired for military purposes. We have some few, but they are not worth picking out.

Q. But you believe there has been an improvement? A. Very recently some trotting horses have been imported from the United States, but there has been no general improvement.

Q. Has there been any improvement in horses for trucking purposes? A. I do not think there has.

Q. Do you have charge of the men in the fire department? A. Yes; those who handle the horses.

Q. How many men are there who are paid? A. Five.

Q. What wages are they paid? A. \$8 per week.

Q. Are the firemen paid anything? A. No; their services are purely voluntary.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do the drivers get a uniform? A. No.

Q. Do they get no clothing at all? A. No.

Q. Does the city provide places for them to sleep in? A. No.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Would it pay farmers to turn their attention to raising horses? A. Yes; quite as much so as raising cattle.

Q. What kind of horses would pay best, roadsters or draught horses? A. Draught horses and carriage horses, such as would be produced from Cleveland bays or English cobs. We have had a good many trotting horses imported by private enterprises. I think eight came the other day to Amherst.

CHARLES BEAMISH, baker, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a baker.

Q. Have you been working long in this city? A. I have been working here for 12 years.

Q. What has been the general condition of the baking business during those 12 years? A. It has been a little better than it is now, I think.

Q. What hours have you been in the habit of working? A. From 3 o'clock in the morning until 6 or 7 in the evening.

Q. Have you ever worked later than that? A. Yes; but not lately. I have worked until 8 or 9.

Q. Does from 3 o'clock until 6 constitute a day's work? A. Yes; but some nights we work later.

Q. How much do you receive for that many hours? A. \$6 a week.

Q. Do you ever have to work 18 or 20 hours at a stretch? A. No.

Q. Is a man obliged to work all the time from 3 o'clock until 6 for one day's pay? A. Yes.

Q. If he went away at 4 o'clock, how much would he get? A. He would get his day's pay just the same.

Q. Have you any complaints to make? A. No.

Q. Have you ever had any difficulties here between the bakers and the employers? A. No.

Q. None that you know of? A. No.

Q. Are you engaged at soft bread baking? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know anything about biscuit? A. No.

Q. Are any men working for less than \$6 a week? A. Not that I know of.

Q. How many in your establishment are getting more than \$7 a week? A. There are only three or four in the shop who are getting more.



- Q. Have you any Sunday work to do ? A. Yes.  
 Q. How much have you to do ? A. We go at 4 o'clock to set the sponge, and knock off about 5 o'clock.  
 Q. Do you do that every Sunday the same ? A. Yes.  
 Q. What time do you get through on Saturdays ? A. Sometimes at 6, and sometimes half-past 6.  
 Q. Are you paid every week ? A. Every week ; yes.

By Mr. KELLY :—

- Q. Are you a married man ? A. Yes.  
 Q. Have you a family ? A. Yes.  
 Q. Do you rent a house ? A. I rent a couple of rooms.  
 Q. What rent do you pay ? A. I pay \$1.25 a week.  
 Q. Have you ever worked in any other city ? A. Yes, I have worked in Boston.  
 Q. Did you work there in the baking business ? A. Yes.  
 Q. How do the wages there compare with the wages here ? A. They do not compare at all. I used to get as much in Boston with my board as I get here, and have to pay my board out of it.

JOSEPH CONNORS, baker, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

- Q. What is your business ? A. I am a baker by trade.  
 Q. Are you a soft bread maker ? A. Yes.  
 Q. What are your hours of work ? A. From three o'clock in the morning sometimes until 4 or 6 o'clock. There is no limited time.  
 Q. Have you ever worked later than 6 o'clock in your shop ? A. Yes; we have.  
 Q. What wages do you receive ? A. Generally \$8. I get \$7 in the winter.  
 Q. You get a dollar less in winter than in summer ? A. Yes.  
 Q. Do you know any reason for that ? A. I do not know, except that business is slacker.  
 Q. Do you put the same number of hours in ? A. Sometimes we have and sometimes we have not.  
 Q. When does overtime commence in the trade ? A. I never heard of any such rule in the trade.  
 Q. Have you ever worked as late as ten o'clock at night ? A. I have.  
 Q. What extra would you get for that ? A. Sometimes it might be our own fault.  
 Q. Suppose it was not your own fault ? A. We might be allowed something; I could not say how much.  
 Q. Do you know of the gas ever being injurious to men ? A. Not within the past few years.  
 Q. Are there ventilators now ? A. Yes.  
 Q. There is none of that now then ? A. Not much; there might be a little.  
 Q. Are there any boys employed in the bakery you are in ? A. There is always a boy but he is able to take a man's place. No small boys are allowed.  
 Q. He works the same hours as the men ? A. Certainly.  
 Q. Do you know anything about the biscuit baking ? A. No.  
 Q. Have there ever been any grievances between the bakers and the employers ?  
 A. I don't know. I don't belong to Halifax.  
 By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG :—  
 Q. Where have you worked besides Halifax ? A. I have worked in St. John, N. B. and in the States.  
 Q. How long is it since you worked in St. John ? A. About seven years ago.

Q. Do you know the wages paid in St. John? A. Yes.

Q. About how do they compare? A. They are about the same as here; generally \$8.

Q. Considering the long hours bakers work do they think they are not receiving enough wages? A. Some might think so and some might not. It is not for me to know their minds.

Q. What is your mind about it? A. I think with the hours we work what I get I am satisfied with.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you hire a house here? A. Yes.

Q. How many rooms have you? A. Three.

Q. What rent do you pay a week? A. I pay a dollar and a quarter.

Q. How does that compare with the rent in St. John? A. It is higher.

Q. How much higher is it? A. It is a good deal higher; I got three rooms in St. John for \$2 a month.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do you know the plan by which bakers go to work in the morning instead of at night? A. No.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Could not the hours be made more convenient? A. I suppose they could.

Q. Do you think they could be changed without inconvenience to the public?  
A. I think it could be made that way.

By Mr. KELLY:

Q. How do the hours here compare with the hours in St. John? A. In St. John we commenced work at 5 o'clock.

Q. How was it in the States? A. There we worked at night and got clear at 6 o'clock in the morning.

Q. You would go to work at six o'clock in the evening? A. Yes.

FRANCIS FRY, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your business Mr. Fry? A. I do not do much business at present.

Q. What is your trade? A. I have none.

Q. Do you know anything about the baking business? A. I only know very little. I never worked at it myself.

Q. Have you a son in the baking business? A. Yes.

RICHARD HOGAN, baker, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your business, Mr. Hogan? A. I am a baker.

Q. Are you a journeyman baker? A. Yes; a journeyman baker.

Q. At what hour do you go to work? A. At 3 o'clock in the morning.

Q. At what hour do you finish? A. We are sometimes done at 4, 5 or 6.

Q. It depends on what you have to do? A. Yes.

Q. Is there any understanding as to what constitutes a day's work between the bakers and the employers? A. No; we have never had a limit fixed to the hours.

Q. Do you know how the hours here compare with the hours elsewhere? A. No.

Q. What wages do you receive? A. I receive \$12 a week.

- Q. Are you a foreman? A. Yes.
- Q. Are there any men in your bakery that earn less than that? A. Yes.
- Q. What would be the wages of the men in the shop? A. Two of them get \$9 and the remainder \$7 and \$6 and so on.
- Q. Do any of them get less than \$6? A. Not that I know of.
- Q. Do you all work the same hours? A. Yes.
- Q. Have there ever been any labor difficulties in the shop? A. Not that I know of.
- Q. Have there been any disputes between the men and the employers? A. Not within seven years. There was a strike seven years ago.
- Q. Was that for shorter hours or for more pay? A. It was for more pay.
- Q. Did the men succeed? A. No; they came in for less than they went out.
- Q. They got starved out? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you employ any boys in the shop? A. No.
- Q. Are the men required to work later than 6 o'clock? A. Not lately; occasionally they are.
- Q. Would that be considered overtime? A. No.
- Q. They would just get the same pay? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you know of men going home at 3 or 4 o'clock and being docked half a day's pay? A. No.
- Q. If a man does go at that time, is he paid full time? A. Yes; that is if he asks to go any place, or wants to go off.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q. What is the average number of hours a man works out of the 24? A. I could not say.
- Q. Would it be 14 or 15 hours? A. No.
- Q. Would it be 12 hours? A. Yes; it would be 12 hours on an average.
- Q. That would be 72 hours a week? A. Yes.
- Q. Take the average wages the men earn, what would be the average wages outside of yourself; would it be \$8? A. I suppose that would come near it.
- Q. Do you think the hours could be made more convenient for the men without inconveniencing the public; say by going to work at half past 5 or 6 o'clock in the morning? A. The bread would be late in getting out. It takes five hours to get the bread out.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. Do you know of cities where the bread is made in the day time? A. No.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q. Do you know cities where the bakers go to work at half past five? A. No.

By Mr. KELLY:—

- Q. How long have you been working at the business? A. I have been at it for 34 years.
- Q. Do you hire a tenement? A. Yes.
- Q. How many rooms are there in it? A. There are four.
- Q. How much rent do you pay for that? A. I pay \$1.50 a week.
- Q. Are your wages the same summer and winter? A. Yes.
- Q. Are the wages of the other men the same summer and winter? A. Some of them come for \$5 in the winter.
- Q. How much would they get in the summer? A. \$7, \$7.50 and \$8.
- Q. And in winter they reduce them to \$5? A. Yes.
- Q. What is the cause of the decrease in winter? A. The men get drunk in the fall of the year, and are thrown out of employment, and when they are taken back they are taken on at \$5.
- Q. Are the wages of all the men cut? A. No. I mean to say that very often it is their own fault. They get thrown out of work through drink, and then come back and offer to work for \$5 or \$6. It is voluntary on their own part.



- Q. Do you pay taxes in the city? A. No.  
 Q. They are included in your rent? A. Yes.  
 Q. Is there water on the premises you hire for \$1.50? A. Yes.  
 Q. Are there other persons living in the house? A. There is one other.  
 Q. Has each one water on his flat? A. Yes.  
 Q. Are there water-closets on the premises? A. They are outside.  
 Q. Is there a sewer on the street? A. Yes.  
 Q. Is there a connection on the premises to take off the drainage? A. Yes;  
 there is a sewer coming into the house.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q. Have there been any labor troubles in your shop lately? A. Not as I know of.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

- Q. At what time do you quit work in the evening? A. At four, five and six o'clock in the evening.  
 Q. Then how do you average 12 hours a day? A. Sometimes I go away after the batch is in and leave an assistant.  
 Q. What is the average number of hours work of the men employed in the shop? A. I could not say.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q. Your place is supposed to be occupied from three o'clock in the morning until six o'clock in the evening, and if you do not occupy it some one else must? A. Yes; we knock off as soon as we are through; sometimes it is three, four or five o'clock; it is according as they want the bread.  
 Q. Do the men generally work until five or six o'clock? A. They have done so the last fortnight. All winter they have worked until three or four at the latest.  
 Q. Do they ever work after six o'clock? A. Just betimes; probably on Saturday.  
 Q. How long after six would they work? A. Until half past.  
 Q. Would they work until ten or eleven o'clock? A. No.  
 Q. Are they paid extra for working over time? A. In case there are hands away they are paid extra.

PHILIP SHEARS, baker, sworn:

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. What is your business? A. I am a baker.  
 Q. What wages do you earn? A. I earn \$8 a week.  
 Q. Do you get the same summer and winter? A. Yes; I get the same all the year round.  
 Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. 12 hours.  
 Q. What time do you commence work in the morning? A. At three o'clock.  
 Q. And you work until you are through? A. Yes.  
 Q. Do you work in the same shop as the last witness? A. No.  
 Q. Would that be a fair rate of wages for men in your shop? A. Yes; there are three of us at \$8.  
 Q. Do none of the men have their wages cut in winter? A. No.  
 Q. Do you get constant employment? A. Yes.  
 Q. Is the shop comfortable to work in? A. Yes.  
 Q. There is no sulphur from the ovens? A. No.

By Mr. KELLY:—

- Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.  
 Q. Do you hire a tenement? A. Yes.

- Q. What rent do you pay? A. I pay a dollar and a quarter a week.  
 Q. How many rooms have you? A. I have three.  
 Q. Where is the water closet? A. In the yard.  
 Q. Are there other persons in the house? A. Yes; one family.  
 Q. Is there water on the premises? A. Yes.  
 Q. Do you pay taxes? A. No.  
 Q. Is it included in your rent? A. Yes.

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JOHN HOGAN, baker, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. Are you a baker, Mr. Hogan? A. Yes.  
 Q. What hours have you been in the habit of working? A. I go to work at three o'clock in the morning.  
 Q. When have you been in the habit of knocking off? A. Sometimes at four, and three, and sometimes at two o'clock. Some days we go home at one o'clock; that is on a two batch day.  
 Q. Sometimes you work later than four? A. Very seldom.  
 Q. What wages do you receive? A. \$8. The foreman gets more. The second hands get \$8.  
 Q. Do you ever get your wages cut? A. Never.  
 Q. Is your shop comfortable? A. Yes.  
 Q. Have there ever been disputes in the trade? A. Not in our shop.  
 Q. What would be the nature or cause of the difficulties? A. The object would be to make one man as good as another. One man can sell his bread for 50 cents a dozen and another who pays his hands good wages cannot compete with him.  
 Q. Do you know any man in Halifax who works at the trade for less than \$6 a week? A. Yes. There are many in this room.  
 Q. Is the condition of the shops in Halifax generally satisfactory? A. In the shop I work in I have all the satisfaction I want. We have very fair hours, except that we would like to get 5 or 6 o'clock if we could.  
 Q. From your experience do you not think that all the work could be done in the day time? A. Yes.  
 Q. How many hours would you consider it necessary for a baker to work to do his work fairly? A. I consider that a man can do a good day's work in ten hours.  
 Q. How many loaves of bread can a man make in ten hours? A. Three men make up 1,500 loaves.  
 Q. Would that be two-pound loaves? A. Yes.  
 Q. What would you consider a good average day's work for a man? A. A good day's work for a man in old times was considered three barrels of flour.  
 Q. A man going to work at three o'clock in the morning and working until six o'clock, how many loaves would he be able to turn out? A. I could hardly answer that question.  
 Q. Do you know of men working until eleven o'clock at night and getting no extra pay for it? A. Yes; I have done it myself.  
 Q. Have you known men go home at four o'clock and be stopped half a day's pay for it? A. Yes; I have known men go in at seven or eight in the morning and work until seven or eight at night and only get half a day's pay.  
 Q. Have the men in Halifax suffered from the sulphur from the ovens? A. Yes.  
 Q. Have you known men taken ill from that cause? A. I have known men to bleed at the nose from it.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

- Q. When was that? A. Five years ago.  
 Q. That was in one place? A. Yes.

Q. Is it in the same condition now? A. I could not say.

Q. Have the men complained of the long hours? A. They are all the time complaining.

Q. Are there any boys employed in your shop? A. No.

Q. Do you know anything about biscuit baking? A. No.

Q. You have never worked at it? A. No.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Has the formation of your union been of benefit to the bakers? A. Yes; a big benefit.

Q. Is there any other benefit than keeping up the price of wages? A. Yes; they assist you if you are sick. There is a great deal of benefit in that way.

Q. If you had no union would you be receiving the same wages you are to-day? A. No; I do not think so.

Q. What reason have you for supposing that? A. Well, union is strength; I have always considered it was an advantage for men to stick together.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you hire a tenement? A. Yes.

Q. How many rooms have you? A. Six.

Q. What rent do you pay? A. \$1.25 a week.

Q. Is it in a central part of the city? A. Yes.

Q. Do you pay taxes? A. No; they are included in the rent.

Q. Have you worked in any other city? A. I worked in Boston 25 years ago. At that time I was a boy serving my time, and after working the second week I got \$6 a week.

HENRY NAYLOR, cracker baker, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a cracker baker.

Q. How long have you been engaged in that business? A. For 13 years.

Q. Do you use machinery in your shop? A. Yes.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. I work ten hours a day.

Q. What wages do you get? A. I get \$7 a week.

Q. Is that the average wages of biscuit bakers? A. I do not know. Some may get more.

Q. Are any getting less? A. I do not know what the rest get.

Q. Are there any boys working in the shop? A. There are a few.

Q. What would the ages of the youngest boys be? A. I don't know.

Q. What work are they engaged in? A. Packing and brushing off the machines.

Q. Do they handle the machinery? A. No.

Q. Do any boys work machinery? A. No; only scraping and brushing off.

Q. What wages do they get? A. I do not know.

Q. Have you known any boys injured by the machinery? A. Yes; half a dozen.

Q. What would be the cause? A. Getting their fingers in the rollers.

Q. How old would the boys be? A. I don't know.

Q. How big would they be? A. All sizes.

Q. Would the accident result from the carelessness or the inexperience of the boy? A. I can hardly tell.



JOHN O'HEARN, baker, sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. What business are you in? A. I am a biscuit baker and soft bread; I work at biscuit and soft bread, both.

Q. What hours do you work? A. I work from 7 o'clock until 6 o'clock at biscuit making, and from 3 o'clock in the morning until 3, 4, 5 or 6 o'clock in the evening at soft bread.

Q. What wages do you receive? A. \$6 in the biscuit bakery and \$7 in the soft bread bakery.

Q. Is there any piece work in the biscuit bakery? A. Yes; there are three or four hands working at piece work.

Q. What wages do they receive? A. I have no idea.

Q. How old are they, between 14 and 15? A. Between that, I guess.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Are you a married man? A. No.

Q. Do you board out? A. No; I live with my parents.

RICHARD BERRIGAN, baker, sworn.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. What branch of the business are you engaged in? A. I am a baker.

Q. How long have you worked at the business? A. For 7 or 8 years.

Q. How long do you work? A. From 7 o'clock until 6.

Q. What wages do you make? A. \$5.50 a week.

Q. Are you a journeyman? A. No.

Q. Are there any girls working at the biscuit making? A. No.

Q. Who does the packing? A. Young boys.

Q. How old might the youngest be? A. I have no idea.

Q. Is there any dangerous machinery in your room? A. No; it is not dangerous if they take care of themselves?

Q. Have there been any accidents? A. Yes; one or two.

Q. Of what nature have they been? A. Getting their hands in the rollers and so on.

Q. How many men are receiving \$5.50 a week in your shop? A. I think I am the only one.

Q. Do any receive less? A. No.

Q. How much do other men receive? A. \$6 and \$7.

Q. Do you work in the same shop with the last witness? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any information to give the Commission in connection with the trade that has not already been given? A. No.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. You say you have been seven years at the business? A. Yes.

Q. Did you go into it to serve your time? A. Kind of that way.

Q. You first went in as a boy? A. Yes.

Q. Do they usually serve seven years? A. I have no idea.

Q. Are you paid according to the value of your services? A. Something that way.

Q. Do you know any others who have been at the business as long as you have who only receive that much? A. No.

Q. Do you know some who have been at it only four years who are getting \$6 a week? A. No.

JOHN BOARDWELL, biscuit baker, sworn.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG :—

- Q. What is your business ? A. I am a biscuit baker.  
 Q. What wages do you receive ? A. I get \$10 a week.  
 Q. Are you a foreman ? A. No.  
 Q. Are there many men in the factory you are in ? A. There are ten boys and men.  
 Q. Would ten dollars be the wages that all get ? A. No ; I don't know what wages the others get.  
 Q. Are there any boys employed ? A. Yes.  
 Q. What would be the age of the youngest ? A. He would be about 15.  
 Q. Are there none under that ? A. None to my knowledge.  
 Q. Have any boys been injured in your shop ? A. Yes.  
 Q. Do you consider that a boy of 14 is old enough to be put at machinery to work ? A. I don't know anything about that.  
 Q. Have you a property of your own ? A. Yes ; it is mortgaged.  
 Q. How long ago is it since you first got it ? A. Ten years ago.  
 Q. Are there other tenants in the house ? A. Yes ; I let two rooms.  
 Q. What rent do you get for them ? A. 75 cents a week.  
 Q. Is there a sewer on the premises ? A. No ; there is no drainage on the street.  
 Q. Is there a water closet in the rear ? A. Yes.  
 Q. Is there a separate one for the tenant and yourself ? A. No ; it is the same.  
 Q. What taxes do you pay ? A. \$13 a year.  
 Q. Does that include water ? A. No.  
 Q. What would the water taxes be ? A. \$4.50 a year.  
 Q. Have you worked anywhere else ? A. About sixteen years ago I worked three years in New Glasgow.  
 Q. Have you ever worked in the States or in Upper Canada ? A. No.

JOSEPH LARKINS, biscuit maker, sworn :

By Mr. HEAKES :—

- Q. How old are you ? A. I am 11 years.  
 Q. What is the matter with your hand ? A. It got hurt in the machinery.  
 Q. How ? A. It got caught in the rollers.  
 Q. What rollers ? A. The rollers of a cracker machine,—a biscuit machine.  
 Q. How long were you working in the biscuit factory ? A. About seven weeks.  
 Q. Was it part of your work to look after the machinery ? A. No ; I was taken in as a packer and was then put to work on the machinery.  
 Q. How much wages did they give you ? A. A dollar a week first, and then a dollar and a-quarter.  
 Q. How much do they give you now ? A. Nothing at all.  
 Q. How long is it since you were hurt ? A. Nine weeks Thursday.  
 Q. And have they not given you anything ? A. No ; except for the week when I was hurt.

By Mr. KELLY :—

- Q. Did you ask for employment ? A. My mother asked for a job for me, and they said I could get a job biscuit packing ; then they changed me to where the machinery was.

By Mr. FREED :—

- Q. How long were you working at the machinery before you were hurt ? A. I could not say.  
 Q. What were you doing at the machinery ? A. I was brushing the dough off according as it came through.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Are other boys of your age employed in the concern? A. I could not say. There was a boy about the same size.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Did you lose any fingers? A. I lost one.

Q. Did you lose any of the joints of the others? A. I think I will lose a second finger.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Who paid the doctor? A. I could not say.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Who took you to the doctor? A. A man who was there. The doctor put seven or eight stitches in.

ARTHUR SWAN, fancy baker, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a fancy baker.

Q. Are you a cake baker? A. Yes.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. 10 hours.

Q. What pay do you receive? A. I get \$2.75 a week.

Q. How long have you been at the business? A. Three or four years.

Q. Are there many boys working in the same shop? A. Yes: a good many.

Q. Are there many younger than yourself? A. There are a few.

Q. Are there any as young as the last witness? A. No.

Q. Are there any machines in your shop? A. Yes.

Q. Do any boys ever get hurt? A. No.

Q. Have you seen boys hurt in the biscuit department? A. Some.

Q. How old would they be? A. I do not know.

Q. Are there many men in the same room you are in? A. There are three or four.

Q. Do you know what wages they earn? A. No.

Q. What did you get the first year you went to work? A. \$1.

Q. Did you get a dollar increase every year? A. No.

Q. What increase did you get? A. Sometimes a quarter of a dollar or fifty cents.

Q. How old are you now? A. Going on 17.

Q. You have been at the business three years? A. I have been at it for three or four years.

JOHN O'HEARN, sworn.

Q. What business are you engaged in? A. I am a biscuit and soft bread baker.

Q. Do you work at biscuit or soft bread principally? A. I work at both.

Q. What hours do you work? A. I work from 7 o'clock in the morning until 6 at biscuit baking, and from 3 o'clock in the morning until 4, 5 or 6 o'clock at soft bread baking.

Q. What wages do you receive? A. I get \$6 for biscuit making and \$7 for soft bread baking.

Q. Is there any piece work in the biscuit bakery? A. Yes; there are three or four hands.

Q. What ages are they? A. I have no idea.

Q. Would they be thirteen or fourteen? A. Between those ages, I guess.



Q. Do you know the wages they get? A. I could not tell you.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Are you a married man? A. No.

Q. Do you board out? A. No; I live with my parents.

JAMES PURCELL, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What occupation are you engaged in? A. The milk business.

Q. Milk business? A. Yes, sir.

Q. How long have you been at that? A. Not long.

Q. Where did you work before that? A. At the biscuit business.

Q. How old are you? A. Going on 15.

Q. What wages did you receive? A. \$1.50.

Q. How long have you worked at the biscuit business? A. A year and a half.

Q. Is that all you got after a year and a half? A. Yes, sir.

Q. How many hours a day did you work? A. From 7 till 6.

Q. Did you ever get hurt? A. Yes, sir.

Q. How did you get hurt? A. In the cog wheels on the cutter.

Q. You got your hand in? A. Yes, sir.

Q. How long were you laid up? A. A little over a month.

Q. Did you get your pay all the time you were laid up? A. No, sir.

Q. When did your pay stop? A. After the first week.

Q. Did any body pay the doctor? A. I do not know, sir.

Q. Are there many boys working in the same shop of your size? A. Three or four.

Q. Are there any younger than you, sir? A. I could not say, sir.

WILLIAM PURCELL, biscuit packer, sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. What is your business? A. Packer.

Q. In what? A. The biscuit packing department.

Q. Are you in charge? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Does it take much skill to be a packer? A. Not considerable.

Q. What wages is generally given to packers? A. Well, my wages is \$6.50. Boys generally get \$1.25.

Q. The boys are under your charge? A. Yes, sir.

Q. How long will it take a boy to learn that business? A. To learn it properly, from two to three weeks.

Q. How old is the youngest child? A. 14 and over.

Q. Are boys generally asked their age when they come in? A. Not generally.

Q. How many hours do the boys work? A. Ten hours.

Q. Are there any fines imposed on the boys if they are not there in the morning sharp? A. No.

Q. What is the time allowed for dinner? A. One hour.

Q. Do they generally go home to dinner? A. Yes.

Q. Do they ever work after six o'clock in the evening? A. Sometimes, occasionally. A busy day they may work after that time.

Q. How long in the evening would they work after working all day? A. It depends on the order. They might be there until half-past six. They have half of the next day. They would receive no money. They would receive no pay, but they would have the time off next day.

Q. Are there any young girls employed? A. No, sir.

Q. Have these boys to lift any of the boxes when filled? A. Yes; but they are not heavy.

Q. What would be the weight of an ordinary box of crackers? A. Twenty or twenty-five pounds.

Q. Suppose the boys do not pack properly? A. They are emptied out and packed over again.

Q. Are their wages increased as they become more expert? A. It does very slowly.

Q. Are the boys removed out of the cracker room in the course of time and put to cracker making? A. In case a boy is absent from the biscuit making room, they take one from the other room in there, but on no other occasion.

Q. How long have you worked at the business? A. Seven years.

Q. What hours do you work? A. Ten hours a day.

Q. Have you ever worked in any other city? A. No, sir.

LEWIS ARCHIBALD, baker, sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. What branch of the baking trade do you work at? A. Soft bread and cracker department—I do both; I take charge occasionally.

Q. What would be the length of hours of work of soft bread bakers? A. Well, the hour of going to work is 4 o'clock, sometimes at 3 o'clock. One shop always goes to work at 4 o'clock and knocks off at 4 or a little later. All the rest vary. There is one shop in the city that always since I can recollect has gone to work at half past 2 and 3 and worked till 11 and 12 o'clock at night. That was when their employer had contracts and endeavored as much as he could to get all the contracts and take the profit out of the labor.

Q. What would be about the average earnings for a soft bread baker in the city of Halifax—take the highest and the lowest? A. The general rate of a society man is \$8 a week. Foremen range \$10—one is \$9.

Q. Do the men belonging to the society receive the highest wages? A. Well, yes; I should say so. Moir's foreman says he gets \$12.

Q. Mr. Archibald, I understand that you are President of the Baker's Union? A. I am.

Q. How long has that union been in existence? A. The first was in existence for 20 years; then we broke up. They eventually re-formed. I think the last formation was about eight or nine years ago, according to my recollection; I cannot distinctly tell you.

Q. Have the wages increased since the last formation of the union? A. No, sir.

Q. What was the cause of the first strike? A. Previous to that we had to go to work at 3 and half past.

Q. Before the strike took place, were there any negotiations between the employers and men as regards a settlement? A. No, sir; not that I am aware of.

Q. Did the men have any correspondence with their bosses before they struck? A. They gave them either a week or a fortnight's notice.

Q. Are there any benefits connected with your society such as sick or death, &c.? A. Yes, sir. Our by-law book says so. We have been striking but we have never been able to get any benefits.

Q. Are there any journeymen bakers in Halifax who own their own houses? A. No, sir.

Q. Do you think from your knowledge that bakers are sufficiently paid for their labor in comparison to other skilled branches of industry—do you know the rate of wages outside of the city of Halifax in the Dominion? A. No, sir.

Q. Have you worked outside the city of Halifax? A. I have worked in the United States—in different parts.

Q. Some years ago? A. That is 12 or 14 years ago.

Q. Do any apprentices go to soft bread bakery? A. No, sir. Not to say apprentices—no apprentice in the business. There are boys occasionally come—in fact the soft bread is almost too heavy for a young boy.

Q. What would you think the proper age for a boy to go to that business without injury to his constitution? A. He should be sixteen or seventeen—if he was smaller he would be too young.

Q. For a good, smart, intelligent boy, how long would it take him to look upon himself as a journeyman baker and demand the same wages? A. If he had a chance I would say four years. He ought to be a good journeyman in perhaps less.

Q. Do you think, Mr. Archibald, that the hours could be reduced, commence say working at five o'clock, without inconvenience to the public? A. Yes, sir; I do. I believe that the bakers could do more work. If we made dough and went back to breakfast we could work better afterwards.

Q. Is there any improvement in the bake shops such as doing away with gaseous matter, and sulphur, that would come from a coal furnace? A. The general rule of the bake houses is to use coal or coke in the oven. Where they have a furnace instead of ovens they burn wood—there is no gas from wood.

Q. Are the bake shops close in the summer time? A. No, sir; very airy.

Q. Warm and comfortable in the winter time? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you think the wages of a baker could be advanced without causing a higher price to the consumer? A. I think so, sir. I would think if the employers formed an association, if they all agreed to that, that the journeymen and the employers could regulate the price if they could only come together and do it. They are acting independently on their own resources and one man comes out with cheap bread and of course the other man has to compete with that cheap bread or else the cheap labor and long hours makes him handicapped.

Q. Is there a bread inspector in the city of Halifax? A. Do you mean a bread weigher?

Q. Appointed by the corporation? A. No; not that I am aware of.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. What is done with the light bread? A. Previous to Confederation the city council appointed a bread weigher; since that time the Dominion has taken the power out of the local authorities and consequently we have none since.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Are you aware that in almost every other city of the Dominion they have a head inspector? A. No, sir.

Q. Are you aware of it in Toronto, Montreal and other cities? A. No, sir.

Q. Are you aware that they have the same form of government? A. Yes, sir.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. As regards the cracker making is that a healthy business for boys? A. Oh, yes, sir. It is healthy enough. It is warm in the bake houses in summer, I would say it was healthy if the bake houses were ventilated.

Q. Do you think it is a proper thing to put a child to cleaning rollers in motion? A. No, sir.

Q. Are they generally put to that kind of work on entering? A. The foreman would not, if he knew his business.

Q. Does it take good judgment and experience for a child to work on one of these rollers? A. Yes, sir. It requires a good deal of experience—the more experience the less liable he is to get hurt.

Q. Could not these rollers be cleaned while they are stationary? A. Most decidedly. Yes, sir.



Q. What is the object of cleaning them while in motion? A. I could not say exactly. Of course the only thing I see is the turning around all the time when the belt is on. If that was off they would have to take the fly wheel and turn with the hand.

Q. Suppose a hand to be caught in a roller how long would it take to stop the machinery? A. Just as long as it would take to throw off the belt. If it had a break you might do it quicker. It would take some time. It is according to how the rollers are set, whether for thick bread or fine. The thinner the rollers the more the hurt is going to be. I should say ordinarily about five minutes, according to how far the man was from the break to stop her.

Q. Do you know whether the parties running the engines are competent engineers? A. I could not say, sir, as regards competence.

Q. Are they gas engines? A. No, sir. Twenty-two horse power steam.

Q. You cannot say anything in what condition the engines are in Halifax or the competency of the engineers? A. No, sir.

Q. Have these bake shops generally engineers or do the workingmen run the engines in turn? A. I do not think they are passed engineers.

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JAMES BYERS, baker, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What part of the baking business do you work at? A. I do not work at any baking business.

Q. Did you ever? A. Yes, sir.

Q. What branch? A. Biscuit.

Q. How long is it since you worked at the biscuit business? A. Four years.

Q. Did you ever get injured? A. I got my hand cut.

Q. How long were you laid up? A. Three months.

Q. Did you lose any fingers? A. No, sir.

Q. Were you paid anything for the time you were ill? A. No, sir.

Q. No doctor's bill? A. I don't think there were.

Q. How old were you? A. Twelve years old.

Q. How long had you been working before you got hurt? A. Six months.

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FRANK HEFLER, baker, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What is your trade, sir? A. Soft bread baker.

Q. Did you hear the evidence of the last witness? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you agree with it? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you anything to add further? A. Well, I have a little. If soft bread bakers had ten hours a day work they could do as much as any other mechanic.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Would it be possible for a baker to go to work at six o'clock or seven o'clock in the morning and get out his batch to satisfy the public? A. Yes, sir; I think so.

Q. Could it be got out in time to be delivered? A. Yes, sir.

Q. What do they give as a reason then that the business of baking should be pursued in that way? A. I don't know.

Q. You cannot give any reason? A. No, sir. It has always been that way ever since I worked at it.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Would it deprive the people of having fresh bread? A. I do not think it would.

Q. Have you got anything else to offer the Commission? A. No, sir; not that I know of at present.

JOHN CUDIHEE, baker, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What is your business? A. Soft bread baker.

Q. You have heard the evidence of the witnesses here? A. The last one I did—I paid great attention too—I think he spoke the truth.

Q. You believe all the evidence he has given? A. I could take an affidavit after him as we had the pleasure of working together.

Q. Do you believe, sir, that if the men worked only 10 hours a day that the idle bakers would find employment in Halifax? A. Certainly, sir.

Q. Do you believe that it would do for a man to commence at five o'clock? A. By all means; and at six o'clock would do.

Q. Have you any further information? A. I have been working eight hours before breakfast and was docked a quarter of a day for twenty minutes.

Q. Do you know anything about the cracker baking? A. No, sir. I have seen several boys injured there. We have been called to assist to get them out.

Q. Has there been an improvement in the sanitary condition of the bake-shops? A. They tell me there has been. I have known it when you would have to open the doors to get your breath; say five years back.

Q. There is an improvement? A. I am not aware of it.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How long is it since you worked at the baking trade? A. I am working at it at the present day. It is four years since I have been working in that establishment.

JAMES FLOYD, baker, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What business are you engaged in? A. Soft bread baker.

Q. What hours do you work? A. About 12 hours. I have worked as high as 24 hours.

Q. What wages do you get now? A. \$8 a week.

Q. What wages did you get working longer hours? A. Generally \$8—I was reduced to \$7.

Q. How many hours are supposed to be a day's work? A. It should be ten hours.

Q. When a man works from three o'clock in the morning till six o'clock at night, how much more will he get? A. Nothing at all.

Q. Suppose he quit? A. He would be docked for a day.

Q. Have you ever known that to be done? A. It was done with myself.

Q. Do you know whether that has been done with others? Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know anything about the biscuit business? A. I worked a little while at it.

Q. Can you tell us if boys are put at this biscuit business at too young an age? A. Some of them are.

Q. Are there many of those boys get hurt? A. A great many.

Q. Did any of them get seriously injured? A. Yes; one I pulled out of the machine myself.

Q. How old would he be? A. Between 13 and 14, I should say.

Q. Do you know if there are many of the boys under that age employed in the biscuit factory? A. I could not say now, sir.

Q. Can you tell us what the average wages of soft bread bakers are in the largest factories? A. Some five, six, seven, and as high as the foreman getting twelve dollars—from that down; some only three.

Q. Outside the factories what are the average wages of bakers? A. Seven and eight dollars.

Q. Outside these factories what is the average hours of bakers? A. Twelve hours.

Q. Do you know if it is the practice to pay different wages in winter than summer? A. In summer they may receive seven dollars and as soon as the snow falls be reduced down to five, four and three.

Q. Can you tell us the cause of that? A. The cause of it is because they don't belong to the union and the bosses do exactly what they like.

Q. Did you ever know of a man's wages reduced to two dollars because he got drunk? A. No; sir.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. As a rule are the bakers as steady in their habits as other trades? A. The majority are.

Q. Do you think the long hours—the bakers having to rise so early in the morning—has a tendency to cause them to drink? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Then you think if a man worked, as you say, 14 or 15 hours, drink would have more effect upon him than if he worked 6, 9 or 10 hours? A. Yes; sir.

Q. You consider organizing bakers in the union has a tendency to keep up wages? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you got any further information that would be of any benefit to the Commission in respect of the baking trade? A. There are four or five of our men unemployed. If we had the ten hour system they would be all employed. If a man works 17 or 18 hours he keeps them out of work.

Q. You believe then that the men as a body would prefer to work ten hours a day so that the other bakers would find employment? A. Yes, sir.

Q. You think then that shorter hours would be the means of giving those extra men employment? A. Yes, sir.

Q. When is the busy season in the baking trade? A. Generally in the summer season when the men-of-war ships come in—June up to, well, November.

Q. And are they always busy—holidays and Christmas times? A. The cake bakeries are.

Q. Are there many cake bakeries in Halifax? A. I dare say about 20.

Q. Do they receive more wages than the soft bread bakers? A. Yes, sir. In comparison they get between six, seven, and eight dollars a week and only work ten hours.

Q. Do they find steady employment throughout the year? A. The cake bakers?

Q. Yes, sir? A. Well, they may be a little slack after Christmas for about a month or so.

Q. When bakers are idle what other industry do they turn their hands to? A. I do not think any of them do anything. They cannot get anything else to do.

WILLIAM BIRKENHEAD, bricklayer, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:

Q. What is your trade, Mr. Birkenhead? A. Bricklayer.

Q. What are the wages paid in Halifax? A. Twenty-five cents an hour—that is the average.

Q. Any men receive more than that? A. A few.

Q. Are there any men not receiving that wages? A. I think there are.

Q. Have you got any statement to make before the Commission that would be of importance? A. I wish to deny some statements that were made here. It was stated that bricklayers and masons here worked eight months a year and received 30 cents an hour. They would be well satisfied if they did—they do not get anything near that. The majority of bricklayers and masons in Halifax do not make five full months in the year, that is the majority—there may be an odd one or two who make more than that, but it is very seldom. Some do not work more than



four months and the wages they receive is twenty-five cents an hour. Twenty-five cents is not sufficient to support a family and we have to look for a reasonable rate of wages, that is thirty cents an hour. One contractor has refused to give it and sooner than give it he sent to the old country and brought out mechanics here and it cost him more in the long run to pay them. The men here had to go to the United States to make a living.

Q. How long ago is it since these men came out? A. Two years ago.

Q. Are any of them in Halifax to-day? A. I think they pretty nearly all went back.

Q. Were you acquainted with them? A. No, sir.

Q. Do you know for a fact that they came out under contract? A. Yes, sir. They are doing more of the same thing to-day.

Q. How long have you worked in Halifax? A. Eighteen years, off and on.

Q. Take one year with another for the past five years, what would be the average yearly earnings of a bricklayer? A. For the last few years we have been getting 25 cents an hour. All the time they make in five full months.

Q. Are the bricklayers in Halifax generally citizens of the place? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are there many married men? A. Yes; mostly all.

Q. Many own their own houses? A. Very few.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do you know whether those bricklayers who were brought from the old country came out here on an assisted passage? A. I do not know.

HALIFAX, 10th April, 1888.

WILLIAM MUIR, sail maker, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a sail maker and ship chandler.

Q. How many hands have you employed? A. About four all the year around.

Q. In your busy season do you have more than that? A. Yes; when we can get them.

Q. Are hands scarce in the sail making trade? A. The business is not very prosperous, and there are not many men; they have left the city.

Q. Since the substitution of steamships for sailing vessels the business has fallen off? A. Of course that has helped.

Q. What can a good sail maker earn? What would be his daily wages? A. We pay men \$1.75 for ten hours' work all the year round; we have three or four employed all the year round at that price.

Q. Are they ever required to work at night? A. Yes; sometimes.

Q. Do you pay them the same or do you pay them extra for that? A. We pay them extra.

Q. Do you pay them a higher price per hour than in the day time? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any unskilled hands employed? A. Yes; we have two or three boys.

Q. What would they receive the first year? A. They would get \$1.25 a week.

Q. How many years would they serve? A. They are supposed to remain until they are twenty-one, but it is common for them to stop only one or two years, and then drop off.

Q. Do women work at sail making at all? A. Not that I am aware of. Not in Halifax.

Q. How frequently do you pay your hands? A. They are paid every Saturday.

Q. In full? A. Yes.

Q. And in cash? A. Yes. We would not expect them back on Monday if we did not pay them on Saturday.

Q. Do you make any sails for foreign vessels touching at this port? A. If they come in in absolute want they may get a sail.

Q. Otherwise they do not? A. Not otherwise. The most of them are Norwegians, and they do a good deal of work on board of their own vessels.

Q. They can get sails cheaper at home? A. Yes; there is no doubt about that. If they want a sail they fix it up on board their vessels.

Q. How do the prices here compare with prices in the United States? A. We can make sails as reasonable, but the prices have advanced here in consequence of the heavy duties. We are compelled to buy our canvas in the province; we used to buy altogether in the United States.

Q. Is the canvas made here equally as good as that made in the United States? A. No; it is not as good as that we were in the habit of getting from the United States, but I think they are sending in an inferior quality from the States now.

Q. How do the prices compare with those of the United States? A. We cannot buy the American as cheap as the Yarmouth duck; in some cases we have to give a shade more.

Q. Is any of the American duck used? A. Yes; some of it is used. The heavy duties have increased the prices of everything connected with a ship. There is no demand for sail-making in Halifax now compared with what there was some years ago.

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JOHN McDONALD, overseer of city works, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am overseer of the city works.

Q. Do you have the employment of the men engaged? A. Yes.

Q. What is the regular pay per day for unskilled laborers? A. Our rate of pay is \$1.10 per day, or 11 cents an hour. We pay them all the way from \$1 to \$1.25 a day. We have some laborers that we give \$1.25 to during the summer when that branch of the work is going on.

Q. Do they get pretty constant employment or are they idle in winter? A. They are idle in winter.

Q. Can you form an estimate of the number of days they would be employed through the year? A. No; in the winter we may take a man on to-day and have no work for him to-morrow.

Q. You cannot form an estimate of the actual amount of work they get? A. No; I cannot.

Q. Do they get other work? A. Yes, of course; they get it wherever they can.

Q. Is there much work that such men can get? A. Not in the winter.

Q. Do you employ many carpenters? A. No; we have only one altogether; when there is carpenter work to do we let it out by contract.

Q. Do you employ bricklayers or masons? A. Last year we had three or four.

Q. What do you pay them? A. We pay them \$2.50 to \$3.

Q. Is that for ten hours work? A. Yes.

Q. How often do you pay them? A. We pay them every Friday night.

Q. Do you pay them in full to the day? A. Yes; our week ends on Wednesday.

Q. Is there any difficulty in getting what hands you want? A. No; none whatever.

Q. Do mechanics apply for work as laborers? A. Not that I am aware of.

Q. Do the same men come back to you or are they changing? A. The same men generally come back to us.

Q. Can you tell us whether any of those laborers have ever saved money or can they live on what you pay? A. Some of them save money and some of them do not.

Q. Have any of them ever bought houses? A. I think I can remember some who have done so.

Q. Not many? A. No; not a great many.

Q. Are the houses paid for? A. I could not say.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. How long have you been in the employ of the corporation? A. For 35 years.

Q. Did you ever learn a trade? A. No.

Q. Did you go in as a laborer? A. Yes; I went in as a laborer.

Q. And you improved and they advanced you? A. Yes.

Q. What wages did you first get? A. I think it was four shillings a day.

Q. Do you take charge of the sewers? A. Yes.

Q. You see to laying them, the connections, &c.? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever had any labor troubles with the men? A. No; none whatever, except when they keep away from their work on account of drink or something of that kind.

Q. What did you say was the rate of wages paid the men? A. 11 cents an hour.

Q. Have you ever had men who have worked for corporations in other cities? A. I think we have had a few who worked in the old country, but they did not remain; they went away.

Q. You have accumulated some property, I presume? A. I have a house, but it is not paid for.

Q. About what is the rent for a tenement of three or four rooms? A. Four rooms where I live would be worth \$5 a month.

Q. What part of the city do you live in? A. I live back of the North Common.

Q. What would be the usual sum charged for three rooms? A. I should say about \$1.25 or \$1.50 a week.

Q. Do you pay taxes? A. Yes.

Q. About what amount would it be? A. I think that last year it was \$23.

Q. Would that include the water tax? A. No.

Q. What would the water tax be? A. I think it was \$10.40.

Q. What is the value of your property? A. I think they put \$1,600 on my house.

Q. You have known other persons in the employ of the corporation who have accumulated property? A. There are some who have houses in their names, but I don't know how much of it is clear.

Q. Are there any times when the men are not paid on account of the appropriations being exhausted? A. Not just now.

Q. There has been such a time? A. There was a time five or six years ago, or perhaps more, when the money got short in the spring and the men were not paid for a few weeks.

Q. Did the corporation give orders for goods? A. No; they pay cash.

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ROBERT MOTTON, stipendiary magistrate, sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What is your position? A. I am the stipendiary magistrate of the city.

Q. Is there any lien law in Halifax or in Nova Scotia by which a workingman may secure his wages when employed on a new building? A. Yes.

Q. To what extent may he recover? A. The law will be found in the Revised Statutes (5th series), chapter 85. It is essentially the same as the Ontario Act.

Q. The workman employed has no claim on the owner beyond the amount due the contractor or sub-contractor? A. That is all.

Q. Can you give us any information as to the costs connected with the collection of small debts in Nova Scotia? A. Yes; in the city civil court, which is a court largely used for the collection of small debts, the jurisdiction is the same as in the county stipendiary magistrate's court. The county stipendiary magistrates are



appointed by the municipalities, but I am appointed by the Government. My jurisdiction is up to \$80 in civil causes. The party wishing to collect an account files two copies of it; one to be filed in the office and the other to be served on the defendant. The clerk then makes out the writ, and the plaintiff deposits the 75 cents which is the price of the summons. If the cause is not contested there is a dollar further to be paid for the judgment, which is all the taxable costs, unless an attorney appears. When an attorney appears, and the cause of the action exceeds \$20, he is entitled to a counsel fee of \$4. Where the amount of the cause of action is beyond \$40 he is entitled to a counsel fee of not more than \$6. In default causes, where there is no contest, the summons is issued by an attorney, he is entitled, where the amount is over \$20, to \$2.35, which with the 75 cents for the summons and the \$1 for judgment constitutes all the costs. The number of default cases is very large. The execution is 40 cents. The city marshal collects the amount of the execution and hands it over without charge. The city civil court meets twice a month, and the number of causes runs from 60 or 70 to 120. The fees are the same in all default cases, no matter what the amount, except the \$2.35 for the attorney where the writ is issued by an attorney.

Q. What are the exemptions from seizure under execution? A. They are all specified in the Revised Statutes, chapter 104.

Q. Is there any law in Nova Scotia in respect to the garnishment of wages? A. Yes; we have a Garnishee Act. It can only issue after judgment. There is no garnishee process particularly for wages unless they are sued for and judgment obtained. The proceedings will be found in the Revised Statutes, chapter 105, and also at page 912.

Q. Is any amount of wages exempt from garnishment? A. No.

Q. May the whole of a man's wages be seized? A. Yes,

Q. Suppose a man is in receipt of \$10 a week and owes \$7; could a creditor garnishee that amount? A. The amount would have to be large enough to come within the jurisdiction of the County Court or the Supreme Court.

Q. Is there any law in Nova Scotia by which the owner of a house may compel a tenant to open the house to persons desirous of looking at it? A. No; none whatever.

Q. Suppose a tenant hires rooms and pays for them by the month, can the landlord compel him to keep them for a year in case there is no agreement? A. No; if the tenant hires them by the week that creates a weekly tenancy, and if by the month a monthly tenancy.

Q. If he hires by the quarter it creates a quarterly tenancy? A. That creates a yearly tenancy.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What notice is required to terminate a weekly tenancy? A. A week's notice is all that is required.

Q. How may possession be obtained in case of overholding? A. So many days after notice and demand of possession a warrant can be taken out and the matter determined summarily.

Q. Then the constable goes and removes the tenant's goods? A. Yes.

Q. Is there any law compelling the attendance of children at schools? A. There is, but it is optional with municipalities to enforce it.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Has it been enforced? A. Not to any extent that I know of.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Does the claim of the landlord for rent take precedence of other claims on the goods of the tenant? A. Yes; he is entitled to distrain on everything on the premises unless it is there in the way of trade.

Q. Suppose one or more tenants live in a house and the landlord has not paid the taxes can the corporation distrain on the goods of the tenants? A. No; not on the tenant. Under our assessment law the landlord is assessed for the real estate, and it becomes a first lien on the property as against outstanding mortgages, and encumbrances on the real estate.

Q. Are the goods of a sub-tenant liable for the rent due by a principal tenant? A. I think they would be liable except in the case of a boarder.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is there a law in Nova Scotia requiring certain goods to be left in the house where a distress for rent is made? A. No; in cases of distress for rent you can take everything.

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JOHN C. O'MULLIN, brewer, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your position? A. I am a brewer.

Q. Do you carry on business in the city of Halifax? A. Yes.

Q. How many hands do you employ? A. On an average about 15.

Q. How many of them would be skilled men? A. One.

Q. How much is he able to earn? A. Much depends on his ability.

Q. Is he the maltster? A. No; he is the brewer.

Q. What do you pay your unskilled men? A. \$6 a week.

Q. What number of hours do they work? A. From nine and a-half to ten hours.

Q. That is for six days a week? A. Yes.

Q. Do you require any Sunday labor? A. Very seldom.

Q. Do you pay them at the same rate? A. Yes.

Q. Do you require any night work? A. Yes; but we have regular night men.

Q. Are they paid the same as the day hands? A. Yes.

Q. Do you employ any teamsters? A. Yes; we have three.

Q. How much wages do they receive? A. \$7 a week.

Q. Do you employ any boys? A. We have two or three sometimes.

Q. How much are they able to earn? A. From \$1 to \$1.50 a week.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. How much do you pay your head brewer? A. I would rather not answer that question.

Q. How many have you? A. One besides myself.

Q. What do you pay your maltsters? A. We have none.

Q. Do you do your own malting? A. No; we purchase it in Canada.

Q. Where? A. In Ontario.

Q. How much do you pay your cellar men? A. They get \$6 a week.

Q. How many hours are they employed? A. Nine or ten hours.

Q. Have you any rule prohibiting men from drinking too much ale? A. No; except to discharge them if they take too much. So long as it does not interfere with their work they can take it whenever they feel like it.

Q. Are your men employed throughout the year? A. Yes; they are steadily employed.

Q. Do you manufacture only strong beer? A. No; we manufacture light beers also.

Q. Do you manufacture any lager? A. No.

Q. Is there any manufactured in Nova Scotia? A. Not that I know of.

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CLARENCE B. McDougall, grocer and wine merchant, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a wholesale grocer and wine merchant and distiller.

Q. How many hands do you employ in the distillery? A. I would rather the manager would answer that question.

Q. How many do you employ in your general business? A. 9.

Q. How many hours a day do they work? A. From 8 in the morning until 7 at night.

Q. Is 7 the usual hour for closing in Halifax? A. Different places close at different hours; that is our hour.

Q. What would be a fair annual salary for a clerk to get of fair ability? A. We pay different rates, from \$400 to \$700 or \$800.

Q. Do you pay none of your clerks less than \$400? A. No.

Q. Do you have any boys? A. We only have one—an office boy.

Q. What would be a fair salary for a good skilled book-keeper? A. They run from \$500 to \$1,000. It depends on the ability of a man.

Q. How frequently do you pay your hands? A. Once a week.

Q. In cash? A. Yes.

Q. And in full? A. Yes.

Q. At what time do you pay them? A. On Saturday evening.

Q. Would there be an advantage in paying hands on Friday so that they could go to the Saturday markets? A. I don't know that there would. Most of our employes have enough to be a week ahead.

Q. Would men who work for a dollar a day have enough ahead? A. Yes; I think so, where the employment is steady.

Q. Can men who work for \$1.10 a day save money in Halifax? A. It depends on the number in the family and what they eat.

Q. Is there a better market on Saturday than at any other time with a fuller supply of market produce? A. I don't know that things can be bought cheaper.

Q. Is there a fuller supply then? We have no regular market here. There is a vegetable supply market on Wednesday when such goods can be bought as cheap as on Saturday, and for meats and other provisions there is no regular market.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you do any bottling? A. Not regularly. We bottle a considerable quantity of wines.

Q. Is there a law in this province with regard to the ownership of bottles so that a man can claim all those bearing his own label? A. I don't know that there is. No brewer bottles with his own bottles. Nearly all the bottles used are second hand. The soda water people have bottles with their own names on them, and I believe they claim them.

Q. Is there any law to that effect? A. I could not answer that.

Q. Where do you find a market generally? A. We do not do anything outside of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

Q. Do you import liquor over proof from the States to be made up into patent medicines? A. No; we only import from Great Britain and the West Indies.

WILLIAM GORDEN, manager distillery, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. You are the manager of the distillery owned by the last witness? A. Yes.

Q. How many hands do you employ? A. We employ 22 regularly and we employ men to do trucking in addition.



Q. How many of the 22 are skilled workmen? A. The engineer, cooper, carpenter, two still men and two mash men.

Q. How much do you pay the still men? A. We pay them \$7 a week.

Q. The ones who have charge of the mash, how much do you pay them? A. \$8.

Q. What do you pay the ordinary laborers? A. We pay them \$6 and \$6.50.

Q. What do you pay the others? A. The engineer we pay \$11, the carpenter \$8, and the cooper \$11.

Q. Has the engineer a certificate? A. Yes.

Q. Did you secure a man holding a license for your own protection, or is he required to hold it by law? A. We took him because he was the best man.

Q. Would you give the preference to the man holding a license? A. Yes.

Q. Would it be an advantage if all engineers running large engines were required to be licensed? A. I do not know but it would.

Q. How many hours a day do your hands work? A. Twelve; they go to their meals when they like.

Q. Are they employed that time every day? A. Yes; except on Saturday when there is a half holiday.

Q. Do the night hands work the same as the day hands? A. Yes.

Q. Do you employ any Sunday labor? A. None except watchmen.

Q. Do you keep any store or do you supply goods to the hands employed by you? A. No.

Q. How frequently do you pay your hands? A. On Saturday.

Q. In cash? A. Yes.

Q. And in full? A. Yes.

Q. How is it if the hands wish to leave? A. We pay them for the time they have worked; we give a week's notice if we decide to dismiss a man, and we expect a week's notice if he wishes to leave.

Q. If a man leaves without notice would you deduct anything? A. No; we keep nothing back.

Q. Do you employ any boys? A. No; we have one about 18.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. What Sunday work do you do? A. None.

Q. Do you let your fires out? A. No; we keep up steam.

Q. Who keeps the steam up? A. The watchman.

Q. Have you the same man day and night? A. No; we change.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Where do you get your grain from? A. We get it from the United States.

Q. Do you get any from the upper provinces? A. We cannot get enough. We get rye and malt there.

Q. Is the rye from the upper provinces as good as that from the United States? A. I think it is.

Q. Is it as good in every respect? A. It is not as well dressed I think.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you get all your corn from the United States? A. Yes.

Q. What are you able to do with the swill? A. We make it the same as brewer's mash and sell the grains for cattle. We do not have the same slops that they do in Canada.

Q. Is there much demand for the grains? A. Yes; there is a great demand.

Q. Is it sold for feed purposes in Halifax or do the farmers take it? A. Farmers and dairy keepers buy it.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q. Has the operation of the Scott Act had any effect on your business? A. It does not appear to have had.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Is there a law in this province that the owner of bottles can claim them ?  
A. I do not know; I don't think they can.

Q. Do the soda water and beer men complain of that ? A. I don't know; I am not in that line.

A. LAMPHIER, carriage maker, sworn and examined.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Do you manufacture whole carriages ? A. Yes.

Q. About what can a carriage blacksmith earn ? A. Well ; I pay \$9.

Q. A uniform rate ? A. Yes.

Q. A wood worker at your business, what can he earn ? A. \$9.

Q. And the upholsterer ? A. \$9, too.

Q. You pay \$9 pretty well all round ? A. Yes ; we pay painters more.

Q. What do you pay your painter ? A. \$10 is what I pay him.

Q. How many hours a day do your hands work ? A. Ten.

Q. Sixty hours a week ? A. Yes.

Q. How frequently do you pay your men ? A. Every Saturday.

Q. In cash and in full ? A. Yes ; in cash and in full.

Q. Have you any boys working for you ? A. Yes ; I have young fellows learning the trade.

Q. How many years do they serve ? A. Some of them shift pretty soon, there is one there who with the exception of having been away for about six months has been with me for twenty-three years altogether, since I have been in business. Only about four are there I think who served their time right out.

Q. Where do you get your spokes and other materials from ? A. Some from the upper provinces and some from the United States.

Q. Do you find that those you get from Ontario are as good as those you get from the States ? A. As a general thing I like American spokes best.

Q. For what reason ? A. Well ; if you get them from the upper provinces as a general rule they are not dry, not fit for use.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Immediate use ? A. No ; not fit for immediate use. When we get them from the States they are fit for immediate use.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. In other respects do you think those you get from Ontario are as good as those from the States ? A. They are as I have said as good, only not made of dry wood and not fit for immediate use. I got twelve sets this spring and they will not be fit for use till the fall and I have had them by the stove ever since getting them, I turn the ends of them to the stove as I dry them in bundles. They are made of very good wood.

Q. How about the hubs ? A. The hubs I get are first class. They make as good hubs in the upper provinces as I ever saw.

Q. Where do you get your iron work from ? A. We buy it here in our own foundries.

Q. Where do the springs come from ? A. There is no spring factory here and we get them from St. John, N.B., and another place in the Dominion.

Q. And the trimmings ? A. Well ; I buy most of them in Montreal, because I can buy cheaper ; I can save about 25 per cent. on them by buying there.

By Mr. CARSON :—

Q. By buying in Montreal ? A. Yes ; by buying them in Montreal.

Q. Is your trade interfered with at all by cheap carriages coming from any other of the provinces of the Dominion? A. Well; I do not know, it may in some ways. We will say that a few come from Ontario and Quebec which sell very cheaply, but people getting one of these is all they want of them.

Q. Do you know if there are carriages made wholly or in part by prison labor come down here to Nova Scotia or to the city of Halifax? A. I do not know.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Any from Montreal? A. I do not know.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do you know if there are parts of carriages imported from Ontario and which are sold here as American manufacture? A. No.

Q. You have never heard of that being done? A. I never knew of any.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. You do not know of parts of carriages being sent down from Ontario to this province? A. Yes; some few spokes, gearing and such like.

Q. Does that interfere with the general trade here? A. I have bought some of them myself when at times our men are busy, but that I call a side show in matters of business.

Q. Do you use leather manufactured in this country? A. Yes.

Q. Where do you get your leather from? A. I get it from Montreal. The leather I use now comes some from there and some I get from the States.

Q. That which you buy in Montreal, is it of Canadian production? A. Yes; that is what they say; I could not say positively it was, but I buy it for that.

Q. You know by the price—it is not so dear as that you buy in the States? A. No; it is not so dear.

Q. Do you find the quality of it as good as that you get from the States? A. I find the enamelled leather very good and I think it will compare favorably with other enamelled leathers but may lack a little in color.

Q. Has there been an improvement in the leather made in Canada? A. A big improvement.

Q. Is the cost of leather now more than it was ten years ago? A. No; I think it is cheaper.

Q. To-day? A. Yes; to-day.

Q. Is the quality any better? A. I think the quality is about the same.

Q. You do the painting in connection with your business? A. Yes.

Q. You use leads, I presume? A. Yes.

Q. What leads do you prefer? A. I leave that to my painter altogether and he prefers Brandram's leads.

Q. Do you know if there is any Canadian lead used in this city? A. Yes.

Q. Much? A. We have used some of Johnston's.

Q. How do you find that? A. Very good.

Q. Is it equal to Brandram's? A. He thinks the best quality of Brandram's is the best, still he says that Johnston's comes next to it.

Q. I suppose there is a little prejudice existing among the men sometimes as regards leads? A. Yes; and also as regards varnishes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. With the man himself too? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. I suppose you use varnishes in your business too? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever used Canadian varnishes? A. I have.

Q. Also varnishes from the States? A. Yes.



Q. Is there a difference in the price? A. Not much; there is a difference.

Q. How about their wearing qualities? A. I use more of Babcocks, that is American; we like the Canadian rubbing varnish very well, but not the finishing varnishes. We use Noble & Hoar's in finishing and that is English make.

Q. You find that it wears better than the Canadian? A. Yes; it goes further and wears better.

Q. Is the price of the materials used generally in the making of carriages to-day lower than ten years ago? A. I do not think there is much difference.

Q. Are axles any cheaper to-day than they were ten years ago? A. Yes.

Q. Are spokes cheaper? A. No.

Q. Rims? A. No; you can buy them from \$1 to \$4.

Q. Iron and steel? A. Steel is as cheap; iron there is a little difference now.

Q. Can the men with the mechanical facilities at present in use do more labor than they could ten years ago? A. I do not think so; it is about the same. I have no machinery.

Q. You use, I presume, forged articles such as spokes, bits, clips, &c.? A. We buy all these; we used to have them made by hand some 20 and 25 years ago.

Q. Generally speaking considering the price of the materials now is the profit as large as it was ten years ago? A. I do not know, but I judge it is just as much.

Q. What about the price of steel tires? A. I pay more than ten years ago, but that does not make much difference in the price of the carriage.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Are the wages paid the men to-day higher all round than they were ten years ago? A. No; about the same.

JOHN DE WOLF, carriage manufacturer, sworn and examined.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. How long have you been engaged in the carriage business? A. Twenty-eight years.

Q. Where did you serve your time? A. In St. John, N.B.

Q. How long were you at the business before you came here? A. I served eight years and worked three years at St. John at Harris' as journeyman and then commenced on my own account in this city.

Q. Were you indentured at the time? A. No; I served my time with the firm with which my father was connected, but I had to serve under the old rules.

Q. 28 years ago you commenced in this city in the carriage line? A. Yes.

Q. Do you build a good number of carriages? A. Yes; a good many.

Q. Do you export any from this place? A. Yes.

Q. To what parts? A. The West Indies, Jamaica, Trinidad, Bermuda, a good many until this steamer was taken off and that has blocked it.

Q. You have been in the habit of purchasing your stock of spokes for the business? A. Some, and I manufacture some.

Q. Where do you get the larger quantity of your material from? A. Our material for spokes, the hickory from North Carolina and some are oak; the oak for my spokes I get in this country.

Q. You manufacture spokes? A. Yes; a good many.

Q. It is not generally a line that persons in the carriage business enter into? A. No; the reason I manufacture spokes in my establishment is that I have not other means of using all my steam power; so I make my own and sell some to others.

Q. You principally make your spokes out of oak? A. Yes.

Q. Do you export any of these spokes? A. I have to England, London.

Q. Do you ship any to any part of the Dominion? A. Yes; I have shipped some to St. John, N. B.

Q. Have you ever sent any to Quebec? A. No.

Q. You do not have any trade with the upper provinces? A. No; I cannot produce quantities enough to warrant that.

Q. The material for your iron work I presume you purchase principally here? A. Some of the steel work I get direct from London, for instance; but I use a great deal that is made here, I think.

Q. During the past ten years has there been any decline or any increase in the cost of your materials? A. I think steel and iron are lower.

Q. How as to the wood materials? A. Some kinds—hickory is full dearer, it has got scarcer; other materials about the same.

Q. I suppose you use a great deal of varnish in your business? A. Yes; I use Canadian varnishes for rubbing varnishes and Noble & Hoar's for finishing altogether.

Q. You use leads? A. Yes; I use Brandram's generally—most altogether.

Q. You find that that gives the best satisfaction, that is it better than any other? A. Yes; and the painters ask for that, they seem to be acquainted with it.

Q. Did you ever use any Canadian leads in the carriage line? A. I think they have tried it.

Q. Did it not give satisfaction? A. They do not seem now to care to change from Brandram's.

Q. How is the price of labor now compared with that paid ten years ago? A. Well, I think, I have to give a little more.

Q. How do you find the men employed in your shop, are they inclined to be rather thrifty, saving, industrious and steady? A. Yes; I think generally they are rather saving. I will give you an instance. My foreman leaves me on the first of May or between that and now; he is foreman in the wood shop. He has been with me six years and I think he has saved in that time \$1,400, yet he is very comfortable looking, dresses well and so on.

Q. Have you any small boys employed in your place? A. No; there are none younger than sixteen.

Q. How many boys have you employed? A. I think there may be six altogether, six or seven; we have four departments and we have a boy or two in each department.

Q. Do you know if there has been any cheap labor brought out to this place? A. No; I do not.

Q. Did you ever take into consideration the question as to the propriety of giving the men employed by you a certain percentage of the profits made and if so do you think it would be advisable to do so or not? A. I have; I think it would be advisable but it is so small a place that it is not practicable as yet.

Q. Do you think as a general thing that the men employed have the interests of the employer in mind? A. They have in my case.

Q. You have had men in your employ who did not care for your interests? A. Sometimes, but they did not stop with me very long; a week or two will settle that. To show you that the men will take an interest in their employer I may state that some three years ago I met with an accident and broke my leg. I was confined to my house for 18 weeks and my men ran my business pretty near as well as if I were there—I had men of good sense of course; there were some errors of judgment, but since then I have been to Europe twice, once for ten weeks and another for eleven weeks, and my business went on just as well as if I were at home, with the exception of some mere details.

Q. What do you pay your men in the different lines? A. I pay more wages than others in my line of business. That is here.

Q. What do you pay your wood-workers? A. Some \$15, some \$12 and some \$9. It is according to their capabilities.

Q. What to the blacksmiths? A. \$10.50 and the next man under him \$9.50.

Q. What do you generally pay a boy learning the trade? A. I give them \$1 a week each.

Q. Have you any specified time for which you take them? A. Yes; four years.

Q. What do you give them for the second year? A. \$1.50.

Q. And for the third year \$2.25.

Q. And the fourth? A. \$3.

Q. And after that they are turned out as fair workmen? A. Yes.

Q. What do you give them then? \$9 or \$10 as the case may be.

Q. Have you had boys who served their time with you remain on? A. Yes; some have remained there now eight years; others ten years and all learned their trade with me. The foreman blacksmith shop has been twenty odd years with me and the foreman of the painter's shop also learned his trade with me and he has been there now 10 years.

Q. What do you pay painters? A. \$10.50, I think the foreman, and the others just according to their merit.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. This foreman who saved \$1400 has he a family to maintain? A. No; he is a young man.

Q. He is unmarried? A. Yes; certainly.

Q. Would you object to telling us what wages he has been receiving? A. \$2 a day. The last two years before he got that he was receiving \$10 a week, then \$11; he graded up and at first he commenced on \$8.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Have any of the men in your employment accumulated property or money? A. The foreman of the blacksmith shop owns property which he lives in and he rents the shop underneath him.

Q. Only that one man? A. That is all I can think off. Some of them may have money in the savings bank which I don't know of.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. You said that you paid the foreman of your paint shop \$10.50—what do you pay the journeymen? A. Some nine dollars a week and some \$6, it is according to what they do—what they can work at.

Q. What would be the average earnings between \$9 and \$6, that you pay your men? A. There is no average between that.

Q. How many men do you pay \$6 a week to? A. Only to one now.

Q. How many men do you pay \$6 a week to? That is in the paint shop? A. Only one, we have only four there altogether, I think.

Q. What kind of work does the man do who receives \$15 a week? A. Wood work—that is only to one man.

Q. Did he serve his time in Halifax? A. No; in St. Stephens, N.B.

Q. Has the prices of carriages decreased during these past ten years? A. It has very much.

EDWARD E. M. MORRISON, foreman city of Halifax Water Department, sworn and examined.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Can you tell us the principle on which water rates are levied in the city of Halifax? A. On the valuation of the property.

Q. Wholly? A. Wholly.

Q. Two properties equal in value, the one having six services and the other two, will each pay the same water rate? A. Yes; there is no one property gets more than one service pipe into it—that is one single property.

Q. If a man puts in a water closet is his water rate not increased? A. There is a special provision as to water closets.



Q. Is there a special rate for baths ? A. Yes.

Q. Also for a horse I suppose ? A. Yes.

Q. If a man has a garden and waters it by means of a garden hose ? A. No.

Q. About what is the rate say for a cottage assessed at \$1,000 and having one service ? A. \$4.

Q. And what if a cottage is assessed at \$500 ? A. \$4.

Q. Is that \$4 the minimum rate ? A. Yes; provided there is no water closet ; if there is a water closet it is charged for that extra.

Q. Does it make any difference how many families there are in the one house ? A. Well, no ; where there are more than one family the landlord pays the rates whether they are served with one service pipe or not.

Q. And the rate wholly depends in that case on the value of the property ? A. Yes; on the value of the property as assessed.

Q. You look to the landlord in all cases for the water rates ? A. Not in all cases ; if he is a yearly tenant he pays for it, except there are two tenants in one house.

Q. Are you ever compelled to take proceedings against tenants to secure payment ? A. That I could not answer very well ; the collector has to do with that ; that does not come under my jurisdiction at all.

Q. Can you give us an idea of what the water rate which would be levied on houses containing three or four families, where the tenants occupy one, two or three rooms and pay say 75 cents up to \$1.25 a week for the tenements—what would be the whole water rate upon one of those houses ? A. Well, the rate would depend upon and be according to the assessment on the property.

Q. What I was asking was if you could fix in your mind one of those houses, an average one, and give us some idea of what the water rate would be ? A. One where there are two or three families ?

Q. Yes ; so as to give us some idea of the average water rate that would be paid ? A. Yes ; you see where there are two or three families the landlord pays it on the assessment on the house.

Q. Supposing the house was \$2,000 say, that would be a fair valuation for one of those houses ? A. It would of some where there are two or three families, and on that the landlord would have to pay.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. How long have you worked for this corporation ? A. Twenty-one years.

Q. In what capacity did you go at first ? A. I went joining pipes at first.

Q. Did you ever work at that business before going there ? A. No.

Q. Do you now take charge of the pipe laying and the joinings and so forth ? A. Yes ; everything connected with the water department as far as we are concerned.

Q. What did you receive when you first went there ? \$1 a day.

Q. Your pay I suppose was increased from time to time till now your are receiving— ? A. \$880 a year.

Q. You are the owner of some property I presume ? A. A little bit.

Q. You got that property since you have been in the employ of this concern ? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know any other persons who have accumulated any property since they went into the employment of the concern ? A. No ; none that I know of in the water department has property of his own.

Q. How many men do they employ ? A. Just as many as will do the work ; sometimes there may be 70 or 80 men, at other times 20 or 25, according as there is work to be done ; we can hire men as we want them.

Q. And sometimes I suppose you are lower than 20 or 25 ? A. Sometimes ; we have only 12 permanent men.

Q. What would be the wages of the permanent men ? A. They get from \$2 to \$13 a week. That is \$2 a day about.

Q. In what capacity are those employed who receive \$2? A. Looking after dams; they have places of their own and they get that \$2 weekly just for looking after the dams once a day and seeing nothing is wrong.

Q. Did I understand you to say in answer to Mr. Freed that \$4 was the lowest sum assessed for water rates? A. I said that \$4 was the smallest sum paid on any dwelling house.

Q. Do they assess for water purposes personal property—that is if you own furniture or anything of that sort would that be assessed as property? A. I cannot answer that question.

Q. Has the general run of houses here in the city where there is a water pipe passing in the street water on the premises? A. Yes; in the houses as a general rule.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is there any discount allowed off the water rates if paid within a given time? A. No; not now.

Q. Used there to be? A. Yes; there used to be.

Q. What was the cause of giving it up? A. I cannot answer that question very well, because it is a part of the business I am not posted in at all.

Q. Supposing the water rates are not paid is the water turned off? A. Yes.

Q. When it is paid is there a charge made for turning the water on again? A. No; there is no charge made for turning it on again.

JOHN NAYLOR, real estate agent, sworn and examined.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How long have you been in the business? A. Thirteen years.

Q. I suppose you purchase, sell and let and do everything that is to be done in that line of business? A. Yes.

Q. About what rent would a good mechanic who wanted three or four rooms have to pay for such per week, or according to how you let such places, by the month or the year, &c.? A. It would depend on what part of the city it was in. In the north end rents are cheaper than they are in the south end, and then when you get beyond the water and gas services they are cheaper still, and that is what we call the western part of the city.

Q. Which end would you call this where we are sitting? A. The south end. The centre of it is about here. From Jacob's Hill north is called the north end, and from Robie street west is called the west end.

Q. What would be the rents in the different parts of the city, and what causes the rise in such rents? A. In the north end a house such as you speak of with four or five rooms would cost from \$8 to \$10 a month; they do not build many houses here with four rooms, it is from four to six rooms usually and, of course, there are some parts of the north end where a house with six rooms would cost \$160 a year or a little more than \$13 a month. Taking the centre part of the city there are very few houses of that description. I know one house in the centre of the city containing four rooms which is situate on Salter street for which they get \$13 a month. In the centre of the city they are usually let in tenements; there are very few small houses in the centre of the city. If you go to the west of Robie street you get houses of that class from about \$6 a month to \$10.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What would be the actual distance from the post office to the houses you now speak of? A. About a mile.

Q. Do you rent houses to a great number of mechanics? A. Not a great number; I do to a number.

Q. When a man first comes to you you ask his profession or business? A. Yes.

Q. And so you would know the number hiring places from you and their occupation? A. Yes; certainly.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. What rent do they generally pay? A. About \$8 a month—from \$6.50 to \$8—most pay \$8.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Do you have any difficulty in collecting rents generally from mechanics in this city? A. No; they are the best men to pay that I know of, that is men whom I would call decent mechanics, and that is the majority of them—there are some who won't pay anything or anybody, but drink their earnings.

Q. Is there any difference in the value of real estate say, to-day, and five or ten years ago: is there an increase or decrease, or does it fluctuate like gold in the war? A. The value of real estate up to 1878-79-80 ran down very much, then it remained stationary until 1884 and since that it has been gradually going up, in the south end particularly.

Q. Can you give any reason why it should have increased at that time? A. The reason is that the people are better off and there was more demand.

Q. Do you think there was a general improvement in the city compared with five years ago in that way, is there more employment given? A. There has been these two or three years.

Q. How does the cost of living compare with five years ago? A. I think it is cheaper; it is certainly cheaper than it was eight years ago.

Q. You have lived in other places, I presume? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think that the mechanics in this city live as well as they do in other cities? A. Yes; and a great deal better than in many of them that I know of.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. What cities in the Dominion have you been in? A. Toronto, for one.

Q. Do you think they live better here than in Toronto? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. You have had a great deal to do in Toronto; you lived there for some time? A. No; I did not have a great deal to do, but I got to know Toronto pretty well.

Q. Were you in any other cities? A. Yes; in St. John, N.B.

Q. How did you find the mechanics compare there with this place? A. I did not know either of these places as well as I do Halifax, and I say as regards Halifax that they are situated as well as in any other city I have been in and just as well off. Last year here you could not get enough mechanics to do the work.

Q. Do you employ masons, carpenters and others on the buildings? A. No; only the bosses. I have of course employed them myself or I have had them as agent for other people; the owners of property; I am brought in contact with them that way.

Q. You find laborers scarce at times? A. Yes; you could not get them last summer, it was impossible; you could not get masons or plasterers at any price last year.

Q. I suppose some of those people raised objections to the rate of wages paid the men? A. Of course they made objection but the people for whom they were doing the work had to pay for it and they gave that as the reason for the high rates.

Q. You never heard the contractors object to the high prices? A. No; I could not say I heard them complain but I heard them say they had to pay that and last year most of the builders were going round and offering \$3 and \$3.50 a day for masons and plasterers and could not get them to go.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Supposing a mechanic in this city had a lot clear of all encumbrances and wanted to borrow \$1,000 to build on it what interest would he have to pay and take



the property as a security? A. That is just according to what kind of a lot he had.

Q. A good lot in the centre of the city and he wanted to build on it? A. Are you speaking of a mechanic?

Q. Yes; a respectable man? A. A lot in the centre of the city would cost too much for a mechanic to put a house on.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. He says if a man owned the land and wanted to build a house on it? A. If it was a good lot and he wanted the money to build a house he would get it at \$5 or at \$5.50 per cent.

Q. Is that the rate generally asked here? A. No; 6 per cent. is the general rate, but to build with good security it is about 5½.

Q. Have you heard of cases where 7 and 8 per cent. are charged in the city of Halifax? A. I did of 7 some years ago, but not higher than that.

Q. Do you know that as a fact house rent is cheaper in Halifax than in Toronto? A. No; it is dearer in Halifax.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Can you give us an idea of the rental which the unskilled workman expects to pay; that is, about the rent he feels himself able to pay? A. About \$1 or \$1.25 a week.

Q. How many rooms will he get, as a rule, for \$1.25 a week? A. If he takes them in the centre part of the city, two, and if further out, four.

Q. How far out would he have to go? A. About a mile and a quarter from the post office.

Q. Are there many tenements in the city where he could get four rooms for \$1.25 a week? A. Yes.

Q. There is no difficulty at all in finding a place? A. No.

Q. Have you much trouble in collecting rents from unskilled laborers? A. No; not steady men; as I said before, they are the best paying tenants, as they pay their rent much more regularly. Of course there are some who squander their money and will not pay their rent.

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ROBERT J. J. CARNELL, carriage maker, sworn and examined.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How long have you been connected with this business? A. 34 years.

Q. Have you been conducting business for 34 years? A. No; for about 17.

Q. You have purchased material in the market during that 17 years? A. Yes; I have.

Q. Do you find any difference in the price of material which you use to-day with the price say five or ten years ago? A. I think in wood material there is very little difference, it is only in iron and the manufactures of iron there is a difference.

Q. What difference do you find in the material used for trimmings; for instance in leather? A. Well, I think leather is cheaper.

Q. Are you in the habit of importing American leathers or of using Canadian leather? A. No.

Q. What leather do you use? A. I generally use Canadian leather.

Q. How do you find it compare with American or foreign of any kind? A. I think favorably.

Q. Do you think it wears as well? A. There may be a little preference for American for some jobs, but the Canadian leather compares favorably with any American I have had.

Q. You are in the habit of putting tops on carriages are you? A. Very seldom.

Q. But you have done it? A. Yes.

- Q. And you have put on American leather? A. Yes.
- Q. And you have put on Canadian leather? A. Yes.
- Q. How did you find these wear? A. The American leather wears, I think, a little the best.
- Q. There is no difference in the price in their wearing qualities? A. I think not.
- Q. You use leads in connection with your painting? A. Yes.
- Q. What kind of lead do you use? A. Generally Johnston's.
- Q. You have used English made leads? A. Yes, Brandram's.
- Q. How did you find Johnston's compare with the English made lead or with the Canadian made leads? A. Johnston's is the only Canadian lead I have used.
- Q. Do you think 100 weight of Johnston's will go as far as 100 weight of Brandram's? A. No; I do not think it will.
- Q. Do you think it will take as much oil as Brandram's lead? A. No; you see for carriage work we use but a small quantity of oil, but the painters can give you a much better idea of it than I can.
- Q. I presume you use a good deal of varnish? A. Yes.
- Q. What sorts do you use? A. For rubbing we use Canadian and Noble & Hoar's for finishing varnish.
- Q. How do you find the Canadian varnish compare with that made five or ten years ago? A. I think it is better.
- Q. Do you think there is a general improvement in that class of goods in this country? A. Yes; I think there has been a great improvement.
- Q. You have used it yourself years ago, say five or ten years ago? A. Yes; it is about seven years ago since I first used it; I think very little of it was used before that.
- Q. Do you find that there has been an improvement in it in that time? A. Yes; there has been a decided improvement.
- Q. You think that for elasticity and wear it is as good as the English varnish, that is the best you can get, do you? A. No; I do not.
- Q. For rubbing varnish? A. No; I do not use any English rubbing varnishes.
- Q. How do you like it for carriage gearing? A. It is very fair.
- Q. You think it is as good for that as the American or the English? A. No; I do not think it is as good as the English.
- Q. Is it as good in proportion to the price paid for it? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you employ many men in your shop? A. Eight.
- Q. How many boys out of that? A. There are three boys and five men.
- Q. What wages do you pay your wood workers? A. \$9 a week.
- Q. And the iron worker, the smith? A. One \$11 and the other \$8.
- Q. And your foreman painter, what does he get? A. \$9 a week.
- Q. You do not employ a trimmer? A. No.
- Q. About what do you pay your boys when they first go to the work? A. One dollar a week.
- Q. What age are they generally when they commence with you? A. I do not take boys younger than fifteen.
- Q. What do you pay them the second year? A. It all depends on how he gets along, what he is worth.
- Q. You have no indenture system, it is simply verbal? A. Simply verbal.
- Q. Is the sanitary condition of your place good—have you water closets for the men in the shop? A. Yes.
- Q. Have you water on the premises? A. Yes.

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Miss \* \* \* , employé at cotton mill, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a winder.
- Q. At the cotton factory? A. Yes.

Q. Have you been long employed there ? A. I have been there for six months.  
 Q. How many hours a day do you work ? A. I go to work at half-past six in the morning and work until a quarter past six in the evening. On Saturdays I quit work at a quarter to twelve.

Q. How much wages do you receive ? A. I get \$2.75 a week.

Q. Is that the average sum the girls receive in the winding room ? A. Some of them get \$3 a week, and some of them less.

Q. Are there any of them paid over \$3 a week ? A. Some of the winders might make over \$3 some weeks, and others not that.

Q. Is it piece work ? A. Yes.

Q. Are you kept waiting for work sometimes ? A. Yes ; sometimes.

Q. Do you lose much time from work on that account ? A. No ; not much.

Q. If you were kept constantly going could you earn more ? A. Yes.

Q. Are the girls fined in the winding room ? A. No.

Q. Are you well treated ? A. Yes.

Q. Have you anything to complain of ? A. No.

Q. Are no little girls employed there ? A. Not in the winding room.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Did you ever work at the business before you came here ? A. No.

Q. Is \$3 an outside figure for women to earn in the winding room ? A. That is as much as they can earn now.

Q. They have been put on piece work ? A. Yes.

Q. Are none in the room paid by the week ? A. I am the only one. I am winding cord at present.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q. Do you know if any earn less than you receive ; what is the lowest wages paid ? A. The lowest would be about \$1.75.

Q. How old would those girls be ? A. About 16.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. Is that about the same rate paid in other Provinces ? A. I don't know.

Q. You never worked anywhere else ? A. No.

Q. When you make application for employment, how do you go about it ? A. I went to the overlooker and asked for work, and he told me what he wanted me to do.

Q. How do you know what wages you will get—you don't know until you have been working about a week or a fortnight, then they have a scale of wages that they pay and you accept it ; there is no talking about how much wages you will get ? A. No.

Q. Is there any prospect of you getting more ? A. Yes ; when I get on piece work again.

Q. How long have you been there ? A. Six months.

Q. You knew nothing about it when you went there ? A. No.

Q. I suppose it takes some months to learn the business ? A. Not long ; you are only three or four days when they put you on winding.

By Mr. KIRWIN :—

Q. Do you belong to the city ? A. No.

Q. Do you pay board ? A. Yes.

Q. How much do you pay ? A. \$3 a fortnight.



MISS \* \* \* , employé of the Halifax Cotton Factory, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:

- Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a weaver.  
 Q. Are you employed in the same mill as the last witness? A. Yes.  
 Q. How many looms do you manage? A. I manage six.  
 Q. Have you been long at the business? A. I have been at it for four years.  
 Q. What wages can you earn now? A. When I am working full time I can  
 earn from ten to eleven dollars after paying my tender.  
 Q. That is in a fortnight? A. Yes.  
 Q. Do you lose much time waiting for work? A. I lose a little.  
 Q. Could you earn more if you were kept going all the time? A. Yes.  
 Q. What is the reason you are kept waiting for work? A. I have been kept  
 waiting sometimes because there has been some machinery broken.  
 Q. As a rule do they keep you going? A. They do when they can.  
 Q. How much do you earn at the present time? A. I always have nearly \$10  
 for myself.  
 Q. Have you a helper? A. Yes.  
 Q. How much do you pay her? A. A dollar a week.  
 Q. How old is she? A. She is about twelve years old.  
 Q. Does she work the same hours you do? Yes.  
 Q. Is she kept busy all the time? A. Yes.  
 Q. Can she sit down? A. No.  
 Q. Do you ever work later than a quarter past six o'clock? A. No.  
 Q. Do you always get off at a quarter to 12 on Saturdays? A. Yes.  
 Q. Have you any complaint to make as to your treatment? A. No.  
 Q. Is your room comfortable to work in? A. It is pretty warm.  
 Q. Is it warmer in summer than in winter? A. No; not much.  
 Q. Is it well ventilated? A. Yes.  
 Q. Have you ever had any bad language used towards you? A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

- Q. Did you ever work in any other mill before this one? A. No.

By Mr. KELLY:—

- Q. How long have you been at the business? A. I have been at it over 4 years.  
 Q. You went in without knowing anything about it? A. Yes.  
 Q. How long were you there before you earned over \$4 a week? A. Over a  
 year.  
 Q. What did you earn the first week? A. Nothing at all; I was learning.  
 Q. How long were you learning? A. I was 5 or 6 weeks.  
 Q. What were you able to earn then? A. A dollar a week.  
 Q. How long did you earn that? A. For six months.  
 Q. What were you earning at the end of the year? A. About \$4 a fortnight.  
 I had two looms then.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. Have you ever paid any fines? A. I have paid a few.  
 Q. What were they imposed for? A. For bad cotton.  
 Q. Is it possible always to avoid bad work? A. No.  
 Q. Are the weavers ever fined when it is not their fault? A. I never was.  
 Q. What is the largest fine you ever paid? A. Fifteen cents, I think.  
 Q. What is the largest fine you ever paid in a fortnight? A. Fifteen cents  
 would be the largest. I don't think I was ever fined more than ten cents at one  
 time.

Miss \* \* \*, employé cotton factory, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. Do you work in the cotton factory? A. Yes.
- Q. What branch of the business are you at? A. I am in the weaving room.
- Q. How many looms have you charge of? A. I have charge of two.
- Q. Do you work the same hours as the last witness? A. Yes.
- Q. How much can you earn in a fortnight? A. When I am working steady I earn from \$8 to \$9, but now it is sometimes \$6 or a little over.
- Q. You lose a good deal of time waiting for work? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you know the reason why you are kept waiting? A. Sometimes one part of the mill may get ahead of others; or sometimes the machinery breaks.
- Q. You are not allowed anything for lost time? A. No.
- Q. Have you ever paid any fines? A. Yes.
- Q. Were they imposed for bad work? A. Yes.
- Q. Is it always impossible to avoid bad work? A. No; not always.
- Q. Is it sometimes the fault of the machinery? A. Yes; sometimes.
- Q. Have you ever known any one to be fined when it was not altogether her own fault? A. I don't know.
- Q. Have you a helper? A. No.
- Q. Are there many little girls in your room? A. There are several pretty small ones.
- Q. Have you any idea of the ages of the youngest? A. They would be from 13 to 14.
- Q. Are there none under 13? A. I don't know, I am sure.
- Q. Have you anything to complain of? A. No.
- Q. Have you ever had bad language used towards you? A. No; not towards me personally, but I have heard it used towards others—towards children especially.
- Q. Would that be by men? A. Yes; by the overlookers.
- Q. Do they ever whip the children? A. No.
- Q. Is the shop comfortable to work in? A. Sometimes it is rather warm.
- Q. Would that be in winter or in summer? A. They don't always keep it the same. Sometimes the doors are open and the wind rushes through, but I suppose that cannot be helped.
- Q. You have no complaint except that you are kept waiting? A. That is all.
- Q. How many looms do you take care of? A. Four.
- Q. Would you average \$8 a fortnight? A. Between \$8 and \$9.
- Q. What do you pay for board? A. I pay \$4 a fortnight.
- Q. You never worked in any other factory than this one? A. No; I have been in this mill ever since it has been working.

Miss \* \* \* , employé cotton factory, sworn.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q. What department do you work in? A. I work in the spinning room.
- Q. What do you earn per week? A. The most I have earned is \$6 a fortnight.
- Q. Are there any young girls in that room? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you know their ages? A. Twelve would be the youngest.
- Q. How many are there in the room aged 12? A. I could not say.
- Q. How much do they earn? A. They earn \$2 a week.
- Q. Are there any fines imposed on the young girls in your room? A. Yes; when they are late.
- Q. Are they fined very often? A. No.
- Q. Are all subject to fines, the big girls and the little ones alike? A. Yes.
- Q. What time have they to be there in the morning? A. They have to be there at a quarter past six.

- Q. If they are not there exactly on time are they fined? A. Yes.
- Q. They do not get any grace? A. No.
- Q. What time have they for dinner? A. They have an hour.
- Q. Do many of them go home to dinner? A. No; a good many take it with them.
- Q. Is there much dust in the spinning room? A. Yes; there is a good deal.
- Q. Is there so much that you have to open the windows? A. No; the windows are never opened.
- Q. Don't you find it too warm in summer? A. Yes.
- Q. Do they work on piece work in the spinning room? A. They have this fortnight.
- Q. Do they make more on piece work? A. We don't know yet.
- Q. Are they kept busy? A. Yes; pretty busy.
- Q. Do they work after six o'clock? A. No; we would not do it. The manager wanted us to do it and he said before he would let the Halifax people have their own way he would send for English spinners, but as long as the steam had gone down he concluded to let us go.
- Q. You went? A. Yes.
- Q. Is any abusive language used towards those employed in that room? A. Yes; when they are not doing the work quick enough.
- Q. Who does this? A. There is an under boss that does it.
- Q. Does he swear at them? A. Yes.
- Q. Does he cuff any of them? A. He kicks the boys when they are not doing the work.
- Q. Have any of them cried on account of being kicked? A. Yes.
- Q. Does he ever cuff the little girls? A. No; I never saw him beat the girls.
- Q. But you have seen him kick the boys until they have cried? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you know if the boys ever complain to the manager about their being kicked? A. No.
- Q. You don't know whether they did or did not? A. No.

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Miss \* \* \* , employé cotton factory, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES :

- Q. What do you work at? A. I work at reeling.
- Q. Are there many girls in the reeling room? A. Yes.
- Q. Are there any younger than you are? A. Yes.
- Q. What would their ages be? A. I think the youngest would be twelve.
- Q. What wages do you get a fortnight? A. The highest I get is \$4.28.
- Q. Do you generally get that? A. No; last fortnight I got \$2.32.
- Q. What was the cause of that? A. We had not work.
- Q. Do they keep you waiting for work? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you lose a good deal of time in that way? A. Yes.
- Q. How long have you been there? A. It will be two years in July.
- Q. How old are you? A. I will be 15 on the 25th July.
- Q. Have you gone to school? A. Yes.
- Q. Can you read and write? A. Yes.
- Q. Are there any girls there that cannot read and write? A. I don't know.
- Q. Are the little girls well treated? A. Yes.
- Q. Have you ever seen any of them ill-treated? A. No; not the girls.
- Q. Do you work the same hours as the weavers? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you find the hours long? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED :

- Q. Do you live with your parents? A. Yes.



Miss \* \* \* , employé cotton factory, sworn.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q. What department do you work in? A. I work in the spinning room.
- Q. Have you been working there long? A. I will have been working there three years on the 21st of next month.
- Q. Had you ever worked at the business before? A. Yes.
- Q. Where had you worked? A. I had worked in the States.
- Q. How long had you worked there altogether? A. I had worked three months there.
- Q. How much can you earn in a fortnight? A. I earn \$3.80, but we are on piece work now and we do not know how much we will earn.
- Q. Are you kept busy? A. Yes; pretty busy.
- Q. Did you ask to be put on piece work? A. No.
- Q. Are there any young girls in the spinning room? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you know the age of the youngest? A. She would be about 12.
- Q. Are there several of that age? A. Yes.
- Q. How much do they earn? A. About \$2 or \$2.50.
- Q. In a fortnight? A. Yes.
- Q. Are they on piece work? A. I do not know.
- Q. Are there any fines imposed on the girls in the spinning room? A. Only for being late.
- Q. Are the fines imposed often? A. Pretty often.
- Q. When are they required to be at work? A. At half-past six.
- Q. Is the fine imposed if you are not there on the moment, or is there any grace given? A. I don't think there is any.
- Q. Have any of the girls a long distance to come? A. Yes; I have.
- Q. How far have you to come—over a mile? A. I don't know.
- Q. Is there a foreman or a forewoman over the room? A. A foreman.
- Q. Does he use abusive language to the girls? A. He never has to me.
- Q. Have you known him to beat or cuff the girls under his charge? A. Not him, but the under boss does.
- Q. Are there little boys in the department? A. He kicks them.
- Q. Have you seen the boys cry on account of having been kicked? A. Yes;
- Q. How long ago did you see that? A. Only the other day.
- Q. The little boys had been kicked and were crying? A. Yes.
- Q. How much do the little boys earn? A. I could not say.
- Q. Are any of the girls or boys dismissed for any fault? A. Not that I know of.
- Q. How much is the fine for being late in the morning? A. From 5 to 10 cents.
- Q. Is that rate fixed on account of their being a small time at the business? A. No; all fare alike.
- Q. Do you mean in the number and amount of the fines? A. Yes.
- Q. Do any rules state the causes for which fines will be imposed? A. I do not remember.
- Q. Does the foreman put them on at his own option? A. Yes.
- Q. How much time have they for dinner? A. An hour.
- Q. Are they paid in full every fortnight? A. Yes.
- Q. Have they to wait after hours to be paid? A. No.
- Q. Are they paid before the time? A. Yes; they are paid about half-past five.
- Q. When you are fined are you told of it? A. No; we wait until pay day, and it is marked on the envelope.
- Q. In what part of the States did you work? A. I worked in Lowell, Massachusetts.
- Q. Are the wages the same here as there? A. No; they were higher there.
- Q. What did you get there? A. I got \$8 a month.
- Q. And you boarded yourself? A. No; I was home.

- Q. Do you know what other girls got? A. No.  
 Q. Did the bosses in that concern kick the children? A. No.  
 Q. Was there any cursing or swearing there? A. No.  
 Q. Did they fine them any? A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

- Q. Is the fine you pay proportioned to the time you are late,—so much for every minute? A. I think so.  
 Q. How much a minute is it? A. A cent or two cents.  
 Q. You don't know which? A. No.  
 Q. Are the girls generally late? A. No; not often.  
 Q. Are they very seldom late? A. Yes.  
 Q. The small children are they generally late? A. They are sometimes.  
 Q. They never kick or cuff the girls? A. Not that I know of.

Miss \* \* \*, employé cotton factory, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. In what part of the mill do you work? A. I work in the spinning room.  
 Q. Have you been there long? A. I have been there five years.  
 Q. What did you get when you first commenced work? A. I think it was a dollar a fortnight; that was after I had learned.  
 Q. What do you make now? A. We were making \$3.40 a week, but we are on piece work now.  
 Q. Do you lose much time waiting? A. No; not much.  
 Q. Do they keep you going pretty well? A. Yes.  
 Q. Are there many little boys and girls in the room? A. Yes.  
 Q. Are they well treated? A. I have seen some of the boys kicked.  
 Q. What would they be kicked for? A. If they were not at their work; there is a man there who is not quite a boss, and if they are not at their work he hollers at them, and if they don't run on he kicks them.  
 Q. Does he swear at them? A. Yes.  
 Q. Have you ever been ill-treated? A. No.

By Mr. KELLY:—

- Q. How long is it since you went on piece work? A. This is the first fortnight.  
 Q. The employers did not consult you about it? A. No; we asked the boss what we were getting and he said there was a paper being made out to let us know; we asked him to tell us but we did not get any satisfaction.  
 Q. Did you ever work in any other mill? A. No.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

- Q. You were not told how much a piece you would be paid? A. No.

By Mr. KEELY:—

- Q. Do you know the scale in other places? A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

- Q. Do you know the rate per minute for being late? A. No.  
 Q. It is two cents per minute, I think? A. The highest I was ever fined was five cents.  
 Q. How much were you ever late? A. I don't know.  
 Q. Have you ever seen the boys cry on account of having been kicked? A. I have seen some of them cry.

Miss \* \* \*, employé cotton factory, sworn.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. What department are you in? A. I am in the carding room.

Q. How many women are there in that room? A. They are mostly all young girls.

Q. Is there a foreman or a woman over the room? A. There is a foreman.

Q. What is the wages paid to a skilled hand? A. We are on piece work; it is whatever we make.

Q. What is the most you have made? A. I have made as much as \$6, but when I take my time and am not working steady I make between \$4.50 and \$5.

Q. Are there any little girls in the room? A. Yes.

Q. What is the youngest? A. The youngest is about 13.

Q. Are there any fines imposed for being late? A. No; I am late every morning and am never fined.

Q. Does the foreman use bad language towards the hands? A. I never heard him do so.

Q. Are there any boys in the department? A. Yes.

Q. Does he ever abuse them? A. I don't think so.

Q. Is the room well ventilated? A. Yes; the windows open at the top, and we can open them when we want to.

Q. What time do you commence work? A. At 6 o'clock.

Q. What time do you leave? A. At a quarter past 6.

Q. Are piece hands required to clean the machinery? A. Yes.

Q. When do you do that? A. On Saturdays. We stay in to do so because it is more of a help to ourselves.

Q. You are paid regularly and in full? A. Yes.

Q. What day are you paid? A. On Thursday. The wages are made up to Saturday and we are paid the following Thursday.

Q. Have you known any person discharged out of the room? A. Yes.

Q. Do they get their wages the moment they are discharged? A. They get it the night they are going if they give notice.

Q. If they do not give notice, do they forfeit their wages? A. There is a notice that they will forfeit four days.

Q. Are there any rules as regards fines? A. Yes.

Q. Are the amounts stated? A. Yes; but the boss never goes by the rules.

Q. There are no fines, then? A. Yes; he fines them, but very little. They are fined for broken machinery or for bad work.

Q. What would the fine be? A. He will fine a couple of cents for bad work.

Q. What is the largest amount in a fortnight? A. Well, 25 cents. That would be for broken machinery or for carrying on.

Q. Is the drinking water easy of access? A. No; we have to go to the weaving room, and it is very bad.

Q. Is it tap water. A. Yes.

Q. Do you lose time by going for it? A. No; the tender minds the looms.

Q. Do you pay the tenders? A. No; the factory pays them. What we make on the frames we get.

Miss \* \* \*, employé cotton factory, sworn.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. In what part of the factory do you work? A. I work in the carding room.

Q. Do you work the same hours as the other witnesses? A. Yes.

Q. How long have you been working there? A. For four years.

Q. How much do you earn in the carding room? A. \$5 a week.



- Q. How much did you earn when you commenced ? A. \$1.50.  
 Q. Is the work easily learned ? A. Yes.  
 Q. Are there many children in the room ? A. Yes; a good many.  
 Q. Do you know how old the youngest of them would be ? A. I should think about 13 or 14.  
 Q. What wages do they get ? A. \$4.50.  
 Q. A week ? A. No; a fortnight.  
 Q. Are they well treated ? A. Yes.  
 Q. Do you ever hear any bad language used ? A. No.  
 Q. Is everything comfortable ? A. Yes.  
 Q. Do you ever pay any fines ? A. I have not paid any this long while.  
 Q. Do they ever fine the little girls ? A. No.  
 Q. Are there any small boys in your department ? A. Yes.  
 Q. Are they ever abused by the foreman ? A. No.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

- Q. Is there any back time kept from you ? A. None.  
 Q. Are you paid every day from the start ? A. No; you are supposed to be there a fortnight.  
 Q. When you are paid are you paid every day up to that time ? A. Yes.

Miss \* \* \*, employé cotton factory, sworn.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q. What department are you in ? A. I am in the carding room.  
 Q. Did you hear the evidence of the last witness ? A. Yes.  
 Q. Do you coincide with it ? A. I am not on the same work.  
 Q. What do you earn a week ? A. I earn \$3.60.  
 Q. Are you on piece work ? A. No; I am on wages.  
 Q. Are there any little girls in the room ? A. Yes; there are some.  
 Q. What might be the age of the youngest ? A. About thirteen.  
 Q. Do you hear the foreman use abusive language towards them ? A. No.  
 Q. Are there any boys in the room ? A. Yes.  
 Q. Is there any bad language used towards them ? A. I don't think so.  
 Q. Do you work the same number of hours as the other girls ? A. Yes.  
 Q. Are you paid every fortnight ? A. Yes.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

- Q. Do you get paid right up to pay day or is any time kept off ? A. Four days are kept off.

By Mr. KELLY:—

- Q. Have you ever worked in any other factory ? A. No.  
 Q. How much did you earn when you first went in ? A. I was not on the same work when I first went in; I only got \$2.50 or \$3 a fortnight.  
 Q. What do the girls usually pay for board ? A. I live at home.  
 Q. Do you know any girls who pay board ? A. Yes.  
 Q. How much do they pay ? A. Some of them pay \$4 and some pay \$3.50 a fortnight.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

- Q. Are there any girls in the factory who have come there from the old country ? A. No; not in the room I am in.  
 Q. Are there any in the factory ? A. I don't know.

GEORGE LOWNER, Halifax Cotton Factory, sworn and examined.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. In what department are you employed? A. In the carding room.

Q. Are you the foreman? A. No; I am the assistant foreman.

Q. Have you got many women in your department? A. I think we have about 45 altogether.

Q. Any small girls? A. No; the smallest we have is about 13 or 14 years old.

Q. In employing girls in your room are they generally asked what age they are when they come in? A. No; the manager generally does that downstairs; they are taken to the office first.

Q. What rate of wages is paid a first class hand in the carding room, both day and piece work? A. In day work the highest wages paid that I know of to my own knowledge is \$3.60 a week; that is, working full time.

Q. And what is the lowest wages paid for full time by the day in the carding room? A. To the girls \$2.50; that is, when working full time.

Q. Have you got any young girls working under that pay by the day? A. No.

Q. What are the rates of wages paid them when working piece work? A. They get paid so much a hank; they get so much for each hank they turn off; there is a difference in some hanks; some are finer than others, and they get more for some than for others.

Q. Do piece hands receive more work than day hands? A. The day hands are not employed more than the piece hands.

Q. Is the choice left to the women whether they prefer day work or piece work? A. No.

Q. Whose choice is it? A. The carder whoever he likes to put on.

Q. Can you give us a definite reason why some are put on piece work and some on day work? A. The way we generally do is when a girl first comes in we put her on as a helper, then we put her as tenderer with one of the other girls and then when there is a chance she gets a frame; we do not put them on a frame just as soon as they come in.

Q. Are there boys working in that department? A. Yes.

Q. How old might the youngest be? A. I think the youngest one there now is about fifteen or going on fifteen.

Q. What wages do the boys earn per week? A. \$1.50 and \$2.50 a week.

Q. Are there any fines imposed in your room for being late? A. Yes.

Q. What time have they to be there in the morning? A. Twenty-five minutes after six.

Q. Are there any moments of grace allowed? A. No.

Q. Do you know the rate of fining? Yes.

Q. What is it? A. From three to five minutes it is 2 cents, later than five it is 5 cents. They fine according to the time they are away.

Q. Are there many fines imposed for being late? A. Not for being late a little because they do not make much difference on account of the horn blowing five minutes before.

Q. Are there fines for other things—for breakages and staying off? A. If you stay off you have to send a written apology.

Q. If you stay off you have to send a written apology. And for staying off they also experience loss of wages? A. Yes; they fine for the stoppage of machinery.

Q. If a young girl is fined is she told of it then or does she have to wait till she receives her envelope? A. Till she receives her envelope in some cases. When late very often then they tell her they will fine her.

Q. Are there rules stuck up in the room showing what the fines are for? A. Yes.

Q. And the rates of the fines are mentioned in them? A. No; only two are mentioned, the two cents and the five cents.

Q. For breakage of machinery or stoppage of the machinery, when no fault of the employé, are they fined in that case? A. No.

Q. Are there separate conveniences for both sexes in your room? A. Yes.

Q. And separate entrances to them? A. Yes.

Q. Is the drinking water near at hand? A. Well, it was till this manager came and he shifted it away down to the lower flat.

Q. Does the foreman or the assistant foreman use abusive language to the young girls or boys? A. No.

Q. Have you ever known it to be done? A. No.

Q. Do they ever work overtime? A. Yes.

Q. Are they paid for that? A. Yes; according to their day's wages, and they will get what they get in the day according to the time.

Q. What is the longest time these girls ever worked overtime? A. Two hours.

Q. That would be until quarter past eight at night? A. Yes.

Q. Would they be allowed home to get their tea? A. No; we generally tell them before dinner that they are to work over hours so that they can bring something to eat with them.

Q. Have the foreman and overseer sometimes asked these girls to come back and they have refused? A. Yes.

Q. What time would they ask them to go back to work? In the evening? A. No; at dinner time; and if they had any place to go to in the evening they would say they had to go, and then he would say they would have to go.

Q. Have you ever known them to be notified coming on to six o'clock that they would be required back to work overtime? A. No.

Q. What time have they for dinner? A. One hour.

Q. Do they have their dinner with them or do they go home for it? A. Some bring it with them.

Q. Do they take it in the shop where they are working? A. Yes.

Q. Is there any place provided for them to eat? A. No.

Q. Is the machinery going at the time they are eating their lunch? A. No; the machinery is stopped down.

Q. Is your room warm in the summer time? A. It has been warmer these eight months than it has ever been as they do not care for us to open the windows and there is no ventilators; when we open the windows we have to do so on the sly.

Q. Are there fire escapes provided in case of fire? A. Yes.

Q. Is there a sufficient number? A. Yes.

Q. How about the doors in the factory, do they open inwards or outwards? A. All the doors in the factory open outwards.

Q. In what flat is your room? A. On the second flat.

Q. Is there much dust in your room from the machinery? A. Yes; a great deal of dust.

Q. Did you ever hear the little girls complain of the dust? A. We do not mind that because they are grumbling about something or other all the time.

Q. What do they grumble about generally? A. They generally ask us to open some of the windows for ventilation. We used to do that in the former manager's time, but the present manager does not care about it as he says it hurts the work, but it never hurt the work when the other manager was here, they say.

Q. How is it in winter? A. It is much closer in summer time than in the winter time because there is the heat from the big steam pipe up in the corner of the building; the exhaust pipe runs up there and the sun shines in the west end windows.

Q. Do you ever test the heat there in the summer time? A. Yes.

Q. How hot would it be? A. Sometimes 84. 72 was about the heat in the former manager's time, but with this manager it is 84 and over that.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How long have you worked at this business? A. I went there at the starting of the mill; about six years.



- Q. You never worked in any other mill before that? A. No.  
 Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.  
 Q. Do you hire a tenement house? A. No.  
 Q. Do you board out? A. No.  
 Q. You own a house of your own? A. Yes; I do.  
 Q. Do you pay taxes? A. Yes; I do.  
 Q. What taxes do you pay? A. \$17.55.  
 Q. Do you pay water rates besides that? A. Yes; that costs about \$6 a year.  
 Q. Are there other tenants living in the house beside you? A. Yes; one.  
 Q. What rent do you receive from him? A. \$7 a month.  
 Q. How many rooms has he? A. Four.

EDWARD FINNIGAN, stone cutter, sworn and examined.

By Mr. KELLY:—

- Q. How long have you been stone cutting? A. Eighteen years.  
 Q. How long did you serve when learning that business? A. Four years, the regular apprenticeship for a stone cutter.  
 Q. About what did you receive when you first started to learn your trade as a stone cutter? A. \$1 a week.  
 Q. And each succeeding year? A. A raise so that the last year I had \$4 a week.  
 Q. What is the usual rate of pay given to a stone cutter per week at the present time in the city of Halifax? A. For those that are employed you mean?  
 Q. Yes? A. That would be rather a hard question for me to answer.  
 Q. You are employed yourself at present? A. Yes.  
 Q. About what do you receive? A. Twenty-five cents an hour.  
 Q. About for how many months in the year do you get employment? A. I could not tell you that; some years more than others.  
 Q. Generally speaking, as near as your memory will fetch it to you? A. They may average six months; that would be about the outside of how long they work.  
 Q. You have worked in other cities, I presume, that is outside of Halifax? A. Yes; I do not belong to here at all.  
 Q. How do wages compare here with the wages paid stone cutters in other cities you have been in? A. They don't compare at all.  
 Q. Are they any better here? A. No.  
 Q. They are not as much here as in other places? A. No; not as much.  
 Q. You hire a tenement here, I presume? A. No; I don't.  
 Q. You board out? A. Yes.  
 Q. Is board dearer here than in other cities you have worked in? A. Well, it is not dearer than it is in the States.  
 Q. Is it dearer than it is in St. John, N.B.? A. I never boarded there.  
 Q. Do you pay any taxes here? A. Not yet.  
 Q. What hours do you work per day? A. Eight hours a day.

By Mr. FREED:—

- Q. If you only work six months in the year is it because the climate will not let you work, or is it because there is no work to do? A. No work to do.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

- Q. Have you any marble cutters in Halifax? A. There must be; there are marble shops here.  
 Q. What is their rate of wages paid, do you know? A. I could not tell you.  
 Q. Is 25 cents an hour the standard rate of stone cutter's wages in the city of Halifax? A. That is called for in our Union.  
 Q. There are some who receive more than that? A. I could not say as to that.

Q. Are there many stone cutters in the city of Halifax? A. There are 24 on the roll.

Q. In what part of the States have you worked? A. In Boston.

Q. How long ago? A. Five years ago.

Q. Can you give us the wages paid in Boston, and how they compare with the wages paid in Halifax? A. There is a difference in the pay.

Q. How much? A. Well, at that time it was \$3.50 a day and you worked nine hours, and had to pay \$5 a week for your board.

Q. Five years ago what was it here? A. I do not know. I never worked here before.

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NICHOLAS CAHILL, plasterer, sworn and examined.

By Mr. HEAKES:—

Q. Do you belong to the Plasterer's Union? A. Yes.

Q. Are you an officer in that union? A. No.

Q. What is the rate of wages for plasterers in the city of Halifax? A. \$2.50 a day.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. Ten.

Q. How much work in the course of a year can plasterers get? A. On an average about six months.

Q. Is there any other employment that they can get to do when not employed at their own business, that is handy? A. There is lots of other work, I suppose, if they would look for it. It is rather a difficult question to answer as you put it.

Q. Do they as a rule go to anything else when not plastering? A. Not that I am aware of.

Q. Can plasterers live comfortably on their earnings? A. They have to be very saving.

Q. How long have you belonged to this union? A. About four or five years; I am not positive which.

Q. Do you know if the plasterers favor arbitration for the settlement of trade disputes? A. I could not answer that; I am not aware.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you know the wages of lathers in Halifax? A. They are paid by the thousand.

Q. How much a thousand? A. \$1 to \$1.25; I think that is the highest.

Q. What causes the difference when they are paid by the thousand, the kind of lath; I mean the difference in \$1 and \$1.25? A. If the work is in any way rushing certainly the price will go up, and if it is slack they are paid but ninety cents a thousand sometimes.

Q. As a rule are they paid less per thousand for slack time? A. Well, I do not know about that; we do not work at lathing as a rule.

Q. It is a distinct trade by itself? A. Yes.

Q. How many months in the year do they find work? A. They might work a little more than we do, but it is about an average of what we work.

Q. In the busy season, are there many lathers employed in the city of Halifax? A. I could not tell you, as I have only known about two or three of them.

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M. R. MORROW, coal dealer, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your business? A. Coal.

Q. Are you in the trade on your own account? A. I represent S. Cunard & Co.

Q. What descriptions of coal do you deal in? A. Both hard and soft.

Q. What is the present price of the stove size of anthracite coal? A. The nut size is \$6.50, the egg size \$6.50 and stove \$6.75.

Q. Does that include No. 4? A. We do not call it that.

Q. How do these prices compare with the prices at the same time last year? A. They are just about the same.

Q. How do they compare with the year before? A. They do not differ materially. At present, if anything, they are a shade lower than last year.

Q. Do they buy in Halifax or do you buy at the port of shipment? A. At the port of shipment.

Q. What is that? A. Hoboken and Philadelphia; Hoboken is the principal port.

Q. What is the freight rate from Hoboken to Halifax? A. The average rate would be about \$1.50 a ton. It goes as low as \$1 and runs up to \$2. A fair summer rate would be \$1.25.

Q. About what quantities of anthracite coal do mechanics and the working classes buy? A. Generally in lots of from a half to two tons. Some of those getting that quantity will get it at three or four different times, and others will lay it in for the whole season at once. They use from a ton and a half to two tons.

Q. Do they use more anthracite or bituminous? A. They use the latter nearly altogether.

Q. In what quantities do they buy it? A. In quantities of half a chaldron to four chaldrons. Some lay it in in the fall, and others buy a load or half a chaldron.

Q. I see people going through the streets and selling coal in small quantities; is that carried on to a large extent? A. No; the total amount handled is very small.

Q. What are the prices per ton of bituminous coal, taking the run of the mine? A. Consumers buy screened coal for house use; for some purposes they use the other.

Q. What is the price of bituminous coal for house use? A. The summer price of Sydney, last year, was \$5.25; Victoria, \$4.80. The present prices would be, Sydney \$5.50, and Victoria \$5.

Q. You cannot put that into tons? A. They are sold altogether by the chaldron.

Q. What is a chaldron? A. 3,000 pounds; that is, under the Canadian law.

Q. Do you think any considerable class of the people of Halifax are unable to buy sufficient coal to keep them warm in winter? A. Yes; a large proportion; that is, instead of buying in large quantities, they buy in small quantities and replenish it.

Q. Is much coal supplied by the authorities or by other means gratuitously to the people of Halifax? A. There is a poor association which distributes large quantities each year, and from one year to another, according to their funds.

Q. Is the coal supplied to the chronically poor, or to those out of work in times of difficulty? A. Mostly to the chronically poor I would say, though I would not say so authoritatively.

Q. Those buying in small quantities, do they buy so because they have not the money or the means or either to buy more largely? A. They buy in that way because they have not the money, because it is to their interest to buy as largely as possible, as the price goes up later.

Q. Do many of them ask for credit for coal? A. Yes.

Q. Do many of them get it? A. Yes.

Q. Do they get credit in winter and pay in summer? A. To a great extent; yes.

Q. Why does the price increase in winter? A. Because in summer the coal is delivered right out of the vessels into the carts, and in winter it has to be stored and kept in stock. It is in consequence of the cost of keeping and storing.

Q. Do you always store coal in the winter? A. Yes.



By Mr. HAGGARTY:—

Q. Would it not be as well not to store it? A. We would not have any in that case. The mines close in December and are hardly open yet. During four months of the year coal cannot be got.

Q. Can you not get it in Pietou? A. That is not used so much for house use.

Q. Do you import any Scotch coal? A. No; none whatever.

Q. Does coal deteriorate if exposed to the weather? A. Yes; it deteriorates, of course.

Q. Does any fire ever arise from spontaneous combustion? A. We have had no cases here, though at the mines where it is piled up, they have sometimes had such trouble.

Q. At what mines would that happen? A. I am not prepared to give particulars, but I think there is scarcely a mine that has not had trouble in consequence of the heating of the coal, and they have had to remove large quantities of it.

Q. Are any particular coals more liable to that than others? A. Yes; the softer the coal is the more liable it is to combustion.

Q. In case of a railway being constructed to the mines, would it be possible to sell coal in the winter at the summer rates? A. No; they could not bring it here by rail, except at a loss, as low as by vessels.

Q. Is it cheaper to bring it by steamer than by vessels? A. One advantage that vessels have is that the coal is sold right out of them into the carts and delivered direct to the consumer. When it is brought by steamer it has to be put out at once and has often to be stored. The freight is less but it is often eaten up by storage.

Q. Is any Scotch coal brought here as ballast? A. Not to Halifax, though the dock yard occasionally receives small quantities.

By Mr. J. R. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. How many retail coal merchants are there in Halifax? A. Some firms handle only one or two cargoes; if you include them the number would run up to a dozen or more, but if you confine it to those who deal largely in it, there would not be more than four or five.

Q. Is there any understanding among the dealers to keep up the prices? A. No.

Q. There is no combination among them? A. None whatever.

Q. Is the price uniform all the year through? A. No; it is lower in summer than it is in winter.

Q. Is the price uniform in different seasons as between different dealers? A. Yes; where they have the same quality of coal, but different merchants have coal from different mines, and the prices of coal differ here as they differ at the mines.

Q. Is the price the same where it is the same coal? A. Yes.

Q. How do they strike a uniform scale? A. Well, if the prices were not uniform the fact would be evident soon and the firm charging the most would have to bring the price down to conform to the others.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. There is no monopoly? A. No.

Q. Any one can bring in a cargo? A. Yes.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Has the price decreased in ten years in Halifax? A. No; not on the whole. It is lower than it was five or six years ago, but before that it was higher again.

Q. The prices have been the same during the last two years? A. Yes; I think that four years ago the price was higher, that is, during the summer.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. I suppose the price depends on strikes? A. Yes; on strikes and freights and labor combinations.

By Mr. HAGGARTY:—

Q. Have the freights increased? A. They were better last year than for some years back, but previous to last year there was no material alteration.

Q. Did the improvement in freights affect the prices? A. No; not last year.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. When the duty was taken off last year did it cheapen coal in Halifax? A. No; the price was that much higher in the States.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. The price was raised in the States? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Can any one buy cargoes of anthracite at Hoboken for sale in Halifax? A. Yes.

Q. Is there any understanding between the dealers at the shipping ports and those at Halifax what prices shall be charged here? A. No; none whatever.

Q. Did you ever hear of the spontaneous combustion of coal in vessels? A. I am not aware of any cases.

Q. Do you think this coal could be carried in vessels across the Atlantic without serious danger of combustion? A. I think so unless it was exposed to very bad weather before it went on board which would increase the danger of any Nova Scotia coal.

Q. What is the average summer freight on coal from Sydney to Halifax? A. The average summer freight, based on last summer, from the first of June to the end of December, would be \$1.30 a ton.

Q. Does that include handling in and out? A. The vessel is responsible for shoveling and hoisting.

Q. You receive it on the deck? A. Yes.

Q. And the vessel pays for the loading? A. Yes; and for trimming; that is six cents a ton for small cargoes.

WILLIAM ROCHE, coal merchant, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a coal merchant.

Q. Have you heard the testimony of the last witness? A. No; excepting something at the last.

Q. What class of coal do you handle? A. All kinds.

Q. What would be the present rate for anthracite coal discharged by you? A. \$6.50 a ton.

Q. What would be the lowest rate last summer? A. \$5 or \$5.25 a ton.

Q. Do you know of any instructions by the agents or sellers of coal to dealers in Halifax as to the prices to be charged here? A. No.

Q. Is any citizen of Halifax free to buy coal at the port of shipment for sale in Halifax? A. Yes.

Q. In what quantities do the laboring and mechanical classes buy from you as a rule? A. The quantities I sell vary from the smallest, 10, 15 or 30 chaldrons.

Q. What is the smallest quantity you would sell? A. A tub would be the smallest.

Q. That would weigh what? A. It would weigh 250 pounds.

Q. Is that hard or soft coal? A. Soft coal; a tub of hard coal would weigh 300 pounds.

Q. Do you find many mechanics or laboring people who are unable to pay for coal during the winter, and have to have credit until summer? A. I think a large proportion of them have to have credit.

Q. Do they pay well, as a rule, when summer comes? A. Yes.

Q. Do many people who have work in summer get coal from charitable organizations? A. I think not. I think the charitable societies as a rule give charity in that way mostly to people who have no providers, such as widows and families without means. They avoid as far as possible giving relief to families having men in them, and it is only in cases of great necessity that they do that as far as I have observed.

Q. Is the coal raised in this province liable to spontaneous combustion? A. The coal most subject to combustion was that from Kelly's Cove. I have heard of vessels taking fire from it, but no other coal. I don't think it is mined now.

Q. Is it your opinion that any of the Cape Breton coals could be carried as far as Ontario ports without taking fire? A. Certainly; they have been carried to all parts of the world; they have been frequently sent to the West Indies.

Q. If the coal were dry there would no danger from it? A. None whatever. I have constantly shipped coal in vessels going to the continent, that is bunker coal, and never heard of any fire arising from it.

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JOHN GORHAM, of John S. McLean & Co., sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What firm do you represent? A. The firm of J. S. McLean & Co.

Q. What is your business? A. We are wholesale dealers in tea, provisions and West India produce.

Q. Can you give us an idea as to whether tea is dearer or cheaper in Halifax than it was five years ago? A. It is, if anything, cheaper.

Q. Is it dearer or cheaper than it was ten years ago? A. It is cheaper.

Q. How does it compare in point of price with the price 15 years ago? A. I am not prepared to answer that.

Q. Are coffees dearer or cheaper than they were five years ago? A. Cheaper.

Q. Have you a comparative list of the prices of the same articles at different times? A. Yes; the figures are taken from one month in each year. In 1877 molasses was worth from 45 to 48 cents a gallon; in 1878 it was worth from 35 to 37 cents a gallon; in 1879 it was worth from 30 to 32 cents; in 1880 it was worth from 39 to 40 cents; in 1881 it was worth from 39 to 42 cents; in 1882 it was worth from 43 to 45 cents; in 1883 the price was the same; in 1884 it was worth about 30 cents.

Q. Can you give the price for 1887? A. That would be from 28 to 32 cents. These are duty paid prices and may have been affected by the tariff. The article of sugar in 1877 was worth from 10 to 11 cents per pound.

Q. What class of sugar would that be? A. It would be generally raw Porto Rico sugar.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. That is the same that you buy now, ready for consumption? A. Yes; principally. In 1877 it was worth from six to seven cents a pound. It is cheaper now. The article of tea in 1877 was worth from 30 to 40 cents per pound; in 1882 from 20 to 30 cents a pound, and in 1887 about the same.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. That is the same quality? A. Yes; about the same. The article of tobacco in 1877 was worth from 36 to 38 cents per pound. In 1882 from 38 to 42 cents, and in 1887 the same. Flour in 1877 was worth from \$7.00 to \$7.50 a barrel. In 1882 it was from \$5.50 to \$6.00 a barrel, and in 1887 it had fallen to from \$4.50 to



\$5.00 a barrel. The article of cornmeal in 1877 was worth \$3.50 a barrel. In 1882 \$4.00, and in 1887 \$3.00 a barrel. Oatmeal in 1877 was worth from \$6.25 to \$6.50 a barrel. In 1882 it was worth from \$6.00 to \$6.50, and in 1887 it was worth from \$4.25 to \$4.50. The article of oil in 1877 was worth from 19 to 20 cents a gallon. In 1882 it was worth 22 cents a gallon, and in 1887 it was worth from 15 to 17 cents a gallon. These were the selling prices of the cheap articles of consumption.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Would they be of the same quality ? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Those are the wholesale prices ? A. Yes.

Q. As a rule the articles are cheaper now than they were in 1882 or 1877 ? A. Yes; the majority of them.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. Do you deal in flour and pork ? A. Yes.

Q. What would be the prices of pork and flour for those years ? A. I am not prepared to say.

Q. What about the years from 1882 to 1887 ? A. I think the prices would be three or four dollars more than now, but I am not prepared to state positively.

ANDREW MCKINLAY, publisher, sworn.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. What is your business ? A. It is that of publishers, stationers and manufacturers.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you publish papers ? A. No ; we don't do any printing ; we do binding.

Q. How many hands have you in the bindery ? A. We have from 18 to 20 girls, men and boys.

Q. What do the girls do ? A. They do sewing and ruling.

Q. What is the wages paid to a good binder who can do blank books ? A. From \$9 to \$12 a week.

Q. What would be the average ? A. For what we call a good binder \$9 a week would be the average.

Q. Have you any book folders in your employ that are experts ? A. All the folding is done by girls.

Q. I mean girls ? A. We cannot call them experts.

Q. How long would it take a young girl to understand folding ? A. I have seen some of them understand it as well as we want in 12 months, others take longer.

Q. What would be the greatest number of pages they would be required to fold on one sheet ? A. About 32 would be the largest.

Q. What would be their wages ? A. The highest wages we pay at present is \$4 a week.

Q. What is the lowest wages you pay girls ? A. A dollar a week is the lowest.

Q. How long do they remain at that ? A. It depends altogether on the girl's ability ; some of them are raised in six weeks and others remain at the same rate for three or four months.

Q. Do any remain as long as six months ? A. We have had them remain that long.

Q. In what proportion are their wages increased ? A. It depends altogether on the ability of the girl, there is no regular scale of increase ; the foreman is the judge.

Q. How many girls have you in your employ, young and old? A. We have ten or twelve.

Q. How many of the 12 do you pay \$4 a week to? A. Not more than two I think.

Q. Do you deal in school books? A. Yes.

Q. Where do you get them published? A. The majority of them are published here. The readers are published in Edinburgh.

Q. What books are published here? A. The grammar, a couple of geographies, a general history, a history of British America.

Q. What are the names? A. Calkins and Swinton's. Swinton's General History, Outlines of British History, Calkin's History and Geography of Nova Scotia, Gray's How Plants Grow, Eaton & Frazee's Bookkeeping, Calkin's Elementary Bookkeeping. There are several others.

Q. Is the type set up here? A. The majority of the books are printed from stereotyped plates.

Q. Where do the plates come from? A. They come from Scotland and the United States.

Q. The type is set up there? A. Yes; the type is set up there and the casts are taken from it.

Q. In Boston? A. Yes.

Q. Is there no type set up in Halifax for publishing school books? A. Yes; one or two of the books are in type.

Q. Would they be primary books? A. No; they are the grammar and arithmetic.

Q. How long is it since they were set up in type in Halifax? A. I suppose one book was set up originally four years ago, but many changes have been made and many pages have been reset for alterations.

Q. Are these books generally in use in the province? A. One of them has gone out.

Q. Has it been replaced by another? A. Yes; it has been replaced by an Ontario book.

Q. By a book printed in Ontario? A. Yes.

Q. Is there an agency for Nelson & Son's books here? A. No.

A. Can any publisher get the plates and publish the books at will? A. Yes; those I mentioned are our own copyright works.

Q. Are the plates worked off in the United States and the binding done there? A. No, the printing and binding are done here.

Q. Have Nelson & Sons' any agent for their books here? A. No.

Q. Can any establishment order those books? A. Yes.

Q. Do you not think or do you believe that if these books were gotten up and published in the province the books would be cheaper than they are now? A. No; not the readers.

Q. Don't you think they could be done in the Dominion as cheaply as in Scotland and as well? A. No; I hardly think so, because the quantity consumed is not sufficient to bring them out at a low price. In England they have other markets; the editions published are very large and they can produce them at very low prices.

Q. Do you know that in Ontario the books formerly published by Nelson & Son are published there as good and cheaper? A. I have seen them, but I don't think compared with our books they are cheaper.

Q. Don't you think that if the school books were got up in this province there would be more information in reference to Canada in them than if they were got up in the old country? A. In the readers used here they have introduced pieces by Canadian authors and that seems to supply the want.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. What were the subjects of the articles? A. I don't recollect, but I think there are articles in them about Canada. In the maritime series I have seen several such pieces and I think the royal series is the same.

Q. But if the books are sent all over the world they cannot have much in them about Canada? A. The publishers of the royal series have selected a number of pieces from writers of ability in Canada. If the books are cosmopolitan they cannot be provincial.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are you a practical printer? A. No.

Q. Suppose the leading printers of the province and city stated that they could issue the books here as well as in Scotland and cheaper, don't you think they would be good judges in the matter? A. We have not found them to be so yet.

Q. If they were to say so what would you do about it? A. I am not prepared to say; we judge the books when they are brought out; we have to compare them. Our experience is that the same books cannot be printed as well here. Where there are wood cuts used books have not been printed as well here. Of course they might put on improved machinery, but at present some of the books they could not print on account of the wood cuts. That is what the printers have told us.

Q. Don't you think the printers here are as competent to bring out wood cuts as Englishmen? A. Yes.

Q. Are you aware that this city has turned out some of the leading printers of the continent? A. Yes.

By Mr. HAGARTY:

Q. Do you issue a series of maps? A. Yes; but we do not print them.

By Mr. KELLY:

Q. Where do you have them printed? A. We have them printed in England.

Q. How long is it since you commenced to print the school books? A. It was before I was in the business, and I have been there 15 years.

Q. You are a partner in the concern? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know how long it is since the school law was enacted in the Province? A. No; I don't know the exact date.

Q. I suppose it was after that that you commenced printing the books? A. I know it was some time before I went in.

Q. Is there a percentage allowed by publishers to persons importing large quantities? A. There is a scale of discounts according to the quantity.

Q. Very few houses import books for use in the schools except your concern? A. There are several others who import.

Q. On a small scale, is it not? A. There are none that import as largely as we do.

Q. You say that you have copyrights on certain books? A. Yes.

Q. Are they adopted by the province as a standard? A. Yes.

Q. And they give you the monopoly of the sale? A. Yes.

Q. No other persons can print those books? A. No.

Q. They are prescribed by the province? A. Yes.

Q. Your firm then has a monopoly of school book printing for the province? A. No; there are a great many books on the list that are published outside of the province that we have no control over.

Q. Has not the discussion of this matter been brought up in the House of Assembly? A. Yes.

Q. Was it brought up in connection with the monopoly? A. No; it was in connection with the prices.

Q. Is Archer's History used here? A. No.

Q. That is for the Province of New Brunswick exclusively? A. Yes.



By Mr. HAGARTY :—

Q. Are there other publishers outside of Halifax who issue school books ? A. Yes.

J. C. MACKINTOSH, banker and broker, sworn.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. What is your business ? A. I am a banker and dealer in investments.

Q. How long have you been in business in the city ? A. Since 1873.

Q. Do you deal in real estate ? A. No; I do not touch it, that is, not as a business.

Q. How is the rate of interest charged on money at present compared with ten years ago ? A. It is about the same; it does not vary much in this country. I am speaking of course of the banking business. The interest on certain classes of investments is less now than it was.

Q. Do you receive deposits from the working classes ? A. No; I don't care to do that sort of business.

Q. You sell bonds ? A. Yes.

Q. Do the working classes purchase bonds ? A. No; they put their money in the savings bank where they can secrete it and escape taxation.

Q. Is it usually the case that corporation bonds are assessable ? A. No; they are exempted by law.

Q. Suppose you have bonds of the Province of New Brunswick or Ontario in this city, would they be assessable ? A. I don't know how the assessors are going to get hold of them.

Q. Suppose a person went to the registry office and had them registered for his own security ? A. I don't think they could register them. I suppose the registrar would not refuse to put them on record for the purpose of collecting a fee, but I never heard of such a thing being done.

Q. You have no knowledge whether mechanics and persons of the working class are inclined to save ? A. I believe they do save money. I see numbers of their wives about the savings bank—great numbers of them.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. You say that bonds are not assessable ? A. City, county and provincial bonds are not assessable.

Q. Can men invest their money in bonds ? A. They do.

Q. If I invest my money in property that is taxed, but if I invest it in bonds it is not taxed, is that fair ? A. I cannot answer that.

Q. Would it not be better for the safety of depositors if the Government took control of the system instead of leaving it to corporations ? A. No; I don't think so.

Q. Why ? A. I think the Government might as well undertake the whole trade of the Dominion.

Q. Do you not think the Government should control all public finances ? A. I do not. I think they should control the post office and perhaps the telegraphs, but that they should not transact the business of the country.

Q. If the banking system was controlled by the Government would we have so many cashiers skipping to the other side ? A. If the Government guaranteed the depositors it would be better for the depositors, or if they guaranteed the note circulation it would be better for the note holders, but that would not be the whole banking business.

Q. Is it a matter of impossibility, in your opinion, for the Government to control the banking system ? A. No; it is not impossible, but it would be very foolish and it would not be for the benefit of the country at large.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

Q. Do you think that Governments manage any of these things better than private individuals ? A. My experience is that an honest administration by individuals is better than any Government administration.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. How is it when you do not get an honest administration? A. You have to take your chances of that. In reference to the rate of interest I referred to the rate on current discounts, but the interest on investments, such as good debentures that people would get six per cent. out of 10 or 20 years ago, the average rate on now would be only four and a half or four and three-quarters. That has decreased for the investor.

Q. If the Government had control of the notes would it be a benefit to the country? A. A great deal would depend on the details as to how the notes would be issued and as to how they would be redeemed—whether they would expand concurrently with business and contract the opposite way.

Q. Should not there be some governmental control, so that people would not lose their money by the failure of banks? A. The notes are now the first lien.

Q. But don't you think that all moneys should be on deposit at Ottawa, either by bonds or by money, and that the Government should issue notes to the amount of the money deposited? A. It would be a great thing, of course, to have absolute security for the poorer classes, but they have that now. If the poorer classes wish absolute security they take their money to the Government savings bank, which allows them four per cent. for it. If they are not satisfied with that and want more they must take their chances.

Q. But the issue of bank notes by all banks; you may have a large number of bills and pay them in the notes of a bank, such as the Maritime Bank; the people who held those notes, you know, lost their money; should there not be some mode in which those people could be protected? A. Yes, it would be advisable if a law could be enacted that would protect them without interfering with the business of the country. I have seen a proposition that the banks should put a certain per cent. of their circulation into the treasury to insure the public in case of the failure of any one bank; that is like a mutual insurance company, but there is great difference of opinion in reference to it, and it is a question that is not easily decided.

Q. Have you found in stringent times that banking institutions pick their customers? A. Yes; they always squeeze the weak men.

Q. Is that a benefit to the country? A. They look, of course, to their own benefit and the benefit of the shareholders.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. The banks, I presume, are not charitable institutions? A. When you come to a time when men are thrown overboard everyone looks out for himself.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What is the limit to which an institution is allowed to issue notes. Suppose a banking institution is started with a capital of \$500,000, are they allowed to issue notes to the full extent of the capital? A. No; they are allowed to issue notes to the extent of their paid-up capital.

J. H. WAGSTAFF, general manager of the Nova Scotia Telephone Co., sworn.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am general manager of the Nova Scotia Telephone Company.

Q. How long has the company been in existence? A. Since the first of February. I have been in the business for about five years.

Q. What is the rate charged the business houses for the instruments? A. The rate is \$40, but of course that is subject to distance.

Q. Is that for any place within the limits of the city? A. Half a mile is the limit.

Q. Is there any patent on the instruments? A. Not in the Dominion.

Q. Then any person can start a company? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any competition now? A. No.

Q. Have you a number of men employed in your concern? A. Yes.

Q. How many have you? A. About a dozen.

Q. What wages do you pay the men? A. We pay them according to their ability, from \$30 to \$60 a month.

Q. What kind of a man would you get for \$30 a month? A. A man who could not do anything unless he was told how.

Q. Are they the men that dig holes and stretch the wire? A. Yes.

Q. Who are the persons that get \$60 a month? A. They have some knowledge of electricity and understand wiring and inside work.

Q. Do you have any young ladies employed? A. Yes.

Q. How many have you? A. We have seven.

Q. What is their business? A. They attend to the switch boards.

Q. What wages do they get? A. They get from twelve to twenty-five dollars a month.

Q. Those who are in receipt of \$12 what would they do? A. They attend the boards too.

Q. How long would they have been at the business? A. For six months perhaps.

Q. Do you have them serve a certain length of time before they are in receipt of pay? A. No; we pay them from the beginning.

Q. How much do you pay them at first? A. We pay them five dollars a month while they are learning.

Q. How long would you pay them that? A. Until they are capable.

Q. What are those that get \$12 a month? A. They are competent girls.

Q. Have you water closets in the institution? A. Yes.

Q. Have you a separate closet for the girls and for the men? A. Yes.

Q. How are they situated? A. They are on different flights.

Q. Do the switch girls attend day or night? A. During the day only.

Q. What time do they go to work? A. From 7 to 9 o'clock in the morning.

Q. What time do they quit work? A. Some of them at one o'clock and others not until six.

Q. They have relief hours and lunch hours? A. Those that come at 7 o'clock in the morning go at one.

Q. What time does the night man come on? A. At 7 o'clock.

Q. And he stays how long? A. He remains until 7 o'clock the next morning.

Q. How long have the girls for lunch? A. Some of them have half an hour and others the balance of the afternoon.

Q. What wages do the night men receive? A. There is only one man at night.

Q. What might his wages be? A. From twenty-five to forty dollars.

Q. Are they engaged on Sunday? A. He works every night.

Q. Do the young women work on Sunday, any of them? A. Yes; one of them works from 7 o'clock until one and another from one until 7.

Q. How many of the young women on an average have you back on Sunday? A. Only one at a time.

Q. How much do you pay your line men? A. We pay them about \$40 a month.

Q. Are they employed constantly? A. Yes.

Q. You have a regular staff for that purpose? A. Yes; but we employ additional help besides.

Q. Have you ever had any accidents to the line men? A. No; none of them have been seriously hurt since I have been in the business.



J. A. CHIPMAN, flour and commission merchant, sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What is your business? A. I am a flour and commission merchant.

Q. Do you deal in provisions? A. I deal mostly in flour and meal, feed and matters of that kind. We do a little in provisions.

Q. What were the prices of flour for the years 1887, 1882 and 1877? A. I did not search back to make any memorandum, I can only speak from memory and my general knowledge of the business. The prices within the years mentioned have fluctuated more or less, but the average has been getting lower.

Q. Is the same true, of cornmeal and oatmeal, you deal in those articles? A. Yes; oatmeal reached its lowest point last autumn during all the years you enumerate. The import price was down to \$3.75, at which time or shortly afterward the millers' association of Ontario was formed, and following upon that the crop of last year of oats was short and the results unsatisfactory, and oatmeal has to-day reached \$5.85 delivered at Halifax. The rise from \$3.75 to \$5.85 is in part the effect of the shortness of the crop and in part the effect of the combination of the millers.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Have you any oatmeal in Nova Scotia? A. Very little; a little is produced in Pictou county, and in Prince Edward Island they produce a little.

Q. Do you raise good crops of oats here? A. We raise fair crops but we get a good many from New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. The crop in New Brunswick was good and in Prince Edward Island it was exceptionally fine.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you handle Manitoba flour? A. Yes; some.

Q. How does it compare with other grades in the Dominion? A. For strength it is far superior to any made in Ontario, but for family use it has not come into use, and many women would not know how to use it, but the bakers are using it and the Ontario millers mix the wheat with their own. It improves the strength and makes a loaf of bread that keeps moist longer. Finally it will come into general use.

Q. Is the demand for it in the Maritime Provinces on the increase? A. Oh, yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How do the grades of flour stand to-day in Canada compared with ten years ago? A. They have greatly improved. The class of flour used ten years ago, before the improved system of milling was introduced, the women would not look at now, that is what would have been called superior flour then.

Q. Do you deal in feeds? A. Yes.

Q. How do the prices of feeds stand compared with ten years ago? A. The current prices for a few years have been lower. The prices this year are exceptional on account of the drought in Ontario last year; the prices in Ontario have been higher, and we have to pay higher here. The average prices have greatly declined during the past ten years.

Q. You do not deal in beef, ham and bacon? A. Not to any large extent. We do some.

Q. How would the prices of good beef stand to-day compared with those years? A. Provisions, of course, have fluctuated like flour, but they have ruled for several years on a very low basis. Last year owing to the hog cholera, in the west, pork was higher. Our prices are affected by the United States prices. We use considerable American pork and a considerable portion of the beef imported is American. When their prices are higher the Prince Edward Island people put their prices up also. They are governed by the Chicago prices.

Q. How does our beef compare with the Chicago beef? A. Our provincial beef as a rule is very inferior to what we import. The price at the present time is low. Importing costs about \$10 for plate beef duty paid.

Q. You think the general average of provisions of that kind is lower now than in 1882 or 1877? A. Yes; with the exception of cornmeal. The duty affected that and the price has ruled higher. At the present time the shortage of the crop of corn in 1887 affects the price of meal. It is relatively higher than flour.

Q. Do you deal in root crops to any extent such as potatoes? A. No; not to any extent.

Q. Do you export them to any extent? A. No.

Hon. HECTOR LE BLANC, M.L.C., sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. You are a member of the Legislative Council? A. Yes.

Q. What is your residence? A. Arichat, Richmond, in the Island of Cape Breton.

Q. Can you give the Commission any information respecting the earnings of the fishermen in your section? A. Not to any great extent, because I do not deal in fish. Robin & Co. conduct the most extensive fishing business of any there.

Q. You have no idea of what would be considered a fair summer's earnings of a man on the banks? A. Not exactly; some seasons they would do better than others. Some fishermen send vessels into the North Bay and St. Mary's, and others to the Grand Banks, and some seasons they will get a good catch and others not so good.

Q. Have you any idea of the earnings of the shore fishermen? A. They don't do much. The shore fisheries in late years have fallen off very much.

Q. What is the cause of that? A. So many trawls set on the banks seem to keep the fish from coming in. I have heard many fishermen complain of the trawl system.

Q. The men in boats do not do as well as they did in former years? A. No; not by any means.

Q. Are they deserting the shore fishing for other employments? A. No; but they only make a bare living.

Q. Do any of these people have land that they cultivate? A. They have land but they do not cultivate it to any extent.

Q. Do you think that if the St. Lawrence canals were deepened to 14 feet Cape Breton coal could be sent to Ontario ports profitably? A. Yes; I think it would facilitate the trade.

Q. What would be the average price for coal free on board at Sydney taking the run of the mine? A. I could not tell very well. It seems to me it costs a dollar to get the coal out of the pits.

Q. Do you know as a rule whether the miners are paid in cash? A. I don't know; I am not posted in the business; but I know there are shops around the mines which supply the miners.

Q. Are they owned by the companies? A. Yes; the only way I know is through having been a ship master and having loaded at the mines.

Q. Do you know whether the men employed on the fishing vessels are paid in cash or in kind? A. I think they are mostly paid in goods, and that very often before the fish are caught.

Q. Do you think they get good value for their money or are the goods forced on them at exorbitant prices? A. I think so. The fishermen are generally poor, and when they get advances it at a pretty high rate.

Q. Do they complain that they could do better if they had the cash instead of goods? A. Yes; often.

Q. Is there much money in circulation among them? A. No; the most they get is from American fishing schooners that come in to buy bait. They get money from there, but outside of that I don't think they see a great deal.

Q. Is the climate of Cape Breton favorable to agriculture? A. Yes; fairly so.

Q. Do you raise oats, barley and potatoes? A. Yes; enough for our own consumption. There is little difference between the climate there and here.

Q. How does wheat do there? A. We do not raise much.

Q. Do you think that if the Straits of Belle Isle were closed it would improve the climate? A. You might advise the Government to try it. I think it would make a material difference in the spring. This is not a bad year for ice, but some years the shore is covered with ice up to the 10th or the 15th of June.

Q. Does it come through the straits? A. Yes; it comes in that direction. There is a strong stream of cold water besides the ice.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. You have advocated the closing of the straits? A. I have mentioned it in Parliament. In reference to the mines, I wanted to mention something about the system of loading ships. The system has been that sailing vessels get their regular turns in loading, but within a few years the mine owners have employed steamers to carry coal, and they take precedence over sailing vessels. A sailing vessel may be half or three-quarters loaded or even may only require a few tons to complete her loading, but the moment a steamer comes in the sailing vessel has to lay off and the steamer, whatever she may be, is put in the berth and loaded. I think that as the Dominion Government have the regulation of harbors it is nothing but right that the Commission should make some report in reference to the matter. I think it very wrong that one vessel, whether she is propelled by sail or by steam, if she is a collier, should take precedence over another.

By Mr. Haggarty:—

Q. Are not the steamers under contract? A. So are the sailing vessels. Both are chartered.

Q. A sailing vessel has no claim for demurrage? A. No; if they had there would be no reason to complain. I have found it a great hardship for a steamer to come in and take my place. There is a gentleman present who is a large ship owner who can testify of this better than I can.

GARRETT COTTER, city marshal, sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How long have you been city marshal? A. About 26 or 27 years.

Q. What are your duties? A. To superintend the police.

Q. You superintend the police? A. Yes; and I have charge of the civil department, such as the collection of debts.

Q. Would you state to the Commission how the men are appointed, and how they are paid? A. They are paid \$440 a year, with \$40 additional for clothing.

Q. That would be \$480? A. Yes; the sergeants get \$500, with \$40 for clothing. There are two deputy marshals who get \$700 a year and \$40 for clothing, and one detective who gets \$700 a year and \$40 for clothing. The city marshal receives \$1,200.

Q. The appointments of the police, are they by the city marshal or by the city council? A. The appointments are recommended by the police committee and confirmed by the council.

Q. Must the applicants have the approval of the city marshal? A. Not necessarily so. Sometimes the committee have their favorites and put them on.

Q. Whether the person appointed is good or bad? A. Yes.

Q. What are the general habits of the men, are they steady and sober? A. Very much so.

Q. Have you ever found any dishonesty among the men? A. I cannot say that I have.



Q. Has there been any decrease in crime in the city in the last five years? A. I think there has been a decrease in crime.

Q. Has there been any decrease in the number of persons arrested for drunkenness since the new Act came into force? A. Yes.

Q. Has it been beneficial in its operation? A. Yes.

Q. In what respect? A. In the first place there have not been so many liquor saloons. We had 190 before, and now they are reduced to 50 or 60.

Q. What license fee do they pay? A. \$50 a year.

Q. What do they pay now? A. \$100, that is retail shops.

Q. What do hotels pay? A. They pay \$150.

Q. How do you proceed to get a license? A. There must be a petition signed by three-fifths of the ratepayers of the district. I am not posted as to the system.

Q. Of the total number of persons arrested for drunkenness, what proportion would be mechanics? A. I cannot answer that question.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. When the police commissioners recommend a man to go on the force, you say the recommendation is approved by the council; is it within the province of the aldermen to substitute another man? A. They very seldom object to the man the police committee recommend.

Q. Can the aldermen substitute another man if they see fit? A. Yes; they may do so if they like.

Q. Have the policemen to pass a medical examination? A. Yes; they have to do so before being sworn in.

Q. Do they have to present a certificate of character? A. They present that to me.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. Is the decrease in drunkenness in the city due to legislation or to a general feeling in favor of temperance? A. In giving my opinion I think the new Act has had great effect in suppressing drunkenness, but there is drunkenness now in quarters where there was never any before; men buy a pint of liquor and take it home with them, or they drink it on the street; many of them drink more than they can stand and hence more drunkenness is seen on the streets, whereas if they went into a store to drink they would be satisfied with less.

Q. Don't you think the temperance societies do more to restrain mechanics from drink, than legislation? A. I cannot answer that.

Q. I mean from your experience; you have had a large experience? A. In my opinion the temperance people have had effect.

Q. More so than legislation? A. I cannot say.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG :—

Q. Do you think the long hours of work have a tendency to create a disposition to drink? A. I cannot say.

Q. You never gave that subject any thought? A. No; I did not.

PATRICK DOYLE, shipowner, sworn.

Q. What business are you in? A. I am a ship owner.

Q. How long have you been interested in shipping? A. For 30 odd years.

Q. Are you a proprietor of large ships or of coasters? A. Of coasters principally.

Q. How are freights at present compared with the years 1877, 1882 and 1887? Say either from here to Sydney carrying coal or from here to New York, with general freight, or from here to the other side? A. They are not nearly as good as they were in 1872.

Q. 1877, I said? A. They are not as good as they were in 1877, but between 1882 and now the difference is not much.

Q. You have built vessels I presume, or had them built for you? A. I have had them built.

Q. Is the cost of construction greater now than it was in 1882 or 1877? A. It is not quite as much as it was in 1877.

Q. How is the rate of wages for sailors on board vessel now compared with those years? A. It is about the same.

Q. Does it cost as much to husband a ship now as it did ten years ago? A. No; it does not cost as much now, but the freights are much lower now than they were ten years ago.

Q. But the charges are about the same? A. Yes.

Q. There is no decline as far as the percentage is concerned? A. No; the wages and the charges about the store are about the same.

Q. Do you buy beef and other supplies for vessels? A. Yes.

Q. How do you find the prices of beef and pork now compared with those years? A. I think they are cheaper now. I can store a ship cheaper now than in 1877, but between now and 1882 it is about the same.

Q. You buy a good deal of duck do you? A. Yes.

Q. Do you buy that made in this country? A. Yes; that made at Yarmouth.

Q. How is it in point of quality? A. It is not as good as the American or the English duck.

Q. What difference would there be to the best of your knowledge? A. It seems to me that a new American sail would stand three years where one made of Yarmouth duck would not stand more than two years and a half.

Q. Would the prices of the two be proportionate? A. The American sail would perhaps cost a little more.

Q. I suppose you do not use much wire rope A. We use wire for standing rigging and manilla for running rigging.

Q. You have used a good deal of Canadian rope I presume? A. Yes.

Q. How does it compare with the American? A. It is not as good, as far as I know.

Q. What difference would there be as to prices and quality? A. I would sooner pay 14 cents for American than 12½ for Canadian.

Q. There would be a cent and a half difference? A. Yes.

Q. Do you use rope made of sisal? A. Yes.

Q. I suppose a good deal of that is sold for manilla? A. I suppose there is to persons who don't know any better.

Q. What difference is there between manilla and hemp? A. I cannot say.

Q. What difference is there in quality for wearing purposes? A. I can't say; we do not use much hemp now except for lanyards of standing rigging. For running gear we do not use it at all.

Q. Has not manilla decreased in price a good deal? A. No; not much. Last year I bought manilla for 12½ cents, and in the fall it went up a cent and a half.

Q. Do you employ a good many men fixing up your vessels? A. Yes.

Q. How do the wages of carpenters and caulkers compare with 1887? A. They are about the same.

Q. Do the men generally have steady employment? A. I think that for about nine months of the year they make a fair average.

Q. About what pay do they receive? A. I pay \$2.70.

Q. That is for ten hours' work? A. Yes.

Q. Do you find the class of sailors going into vessels at present more sober and steady than formerly? A. I don't see any change as far as I know. I think they are about the same.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. You say the cost of construction is less now than it was ten years ago, is that due to a decrease in the cost of labor or the cost of material? A. Both.

A—15½\*\*

Q. Do you remember when the caulkers received higher wages than they do now? A. I have paid them since 1872 and it has not increased in my time.

Q. Has it decreased? A. It is about the same. I always paid \$2.70 a day.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What are the wages of sailors on board of coasting vessels? A. From \$16 to \$17 a month.

Q. Do you give employment the whole year round? A. Not on coasting vessels.

Q. How many months would they be laid up? A. They are generally laid up the last of December, and we take them on the first of April.

Q. Do the men get other employment? A. They can if they like; they can go to the West Indies, but my men generally go home to the country after the season's work is done. I would like to explain the wrong done to sailing vessels by steamers loading coal. I send a vessel to a coal port that I have chartered at the rate of \$1.10 a ton. She takes 250 tons and she has 50 tons on board. A steamer comes in and the sailing vessel has to go out and stay 10 or 15 days. I have the same expenses in proportion as a steamer, but the steamer may load and go to Montreal and perhaps come back for a second cargo before I have completed loading. I would be quite willing to give way for a passenger or a mail steamer, but I think it is a great injustice to be forced to give way for a freight boat. We suffer very much in consequence of this. We have to pay our way and we have to pay taxes, and it is an injustice to us. I don't see where the right comes from.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Did you ever speak to the members for the county about it? A. Yes; I put in a petition this session.

Q. Who was it sent to? A. To Mr. Hearn.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Was a copy sent to Ottawa? A. Yes; E. P. Flynn has one there. I think this a very necessary thing to be attended to.

Q. Do you think the rope in Canada has improved as far as quality is concerned in ten years? A. Yes; I think I can say that.

Q. Has there not been a large increase as to quality? A. I think it has increased as to quality.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. The steamers that take precedence of sailing vessels at the mines, who owns them? A. The mine agents own some and others are chartered.

Q. Do any steamship lines own any? A. I don't know; perhaps they do.

Q. They have these preferences no matter who owns them? A. Yes; so long as they are steamers.

Q. You believe in the principle of "first come first served"? A. I do, except in cases of necessity, as where the steamer is a passenger or mail boat. Where both are on an equal footing they should take the same chances.

JAMES SHAND, auctioneer, sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am an auctioneer and real estate broker.

Q. You deal in real estate? A. Yes.

Q. Has there been any decline in the value of property in the city of Halifax during the years 1877, 1882 and 1887? A. Yes; there has in some sections and there has been an increase in others. In the main the values have decreased.

Q. Do you hire tenements in a good many properties? A. No; I do not hire property; that is, I do not make a business of it.



Q. You are in the auction business of general merchandise? A. Yes.

Q. How do you find the prices of general merchandise ranging to-day compared with 1877 and 1882. A. They are cheaper.

Q. Of all kinds? A. Yes; not excepting anything that enters into a man's comfort and well being.

Q. Are they much cheaper? A. Yes.

By Mr. J. R. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. What is the charge to-day for an auctioneer's license? A. \$80.

Q. Is there only one price? A. Yes; that covers everything. There is a distinct license for Dartmouth.

Q. Have any left the business on account of the amount charged for licenses? A. I don't think so.

WILLIAM ROBERTS, stevedore, sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I sometimes work as a stevedore and sometimes at rigging.

Q. How long have you been connected with that business? A. For 45 years.

Q. How is the business now compared with ten years ago; is there much labor employed? A. Not in the rigging business.

Q. Do you keep any men employed? A. Only when I want them.

Q. How many would you have during the year? A. It is just according to the work I would have. Sometimes 8 or 10, or 30, 40, or 50.

Q. Have you had that number within the past few years? A. No; not since Confederation.

Q. Do you do a good deal of stevedore work? A. Yes.

Q. Are there many vessels coming into port? A. I do steamers, mail boats when they come.

Q. Is there as much done now as there was ten years ago? A. Not to my knowledge. There is not so much done in the West India business as there was in former years.

J. F. PHELAN, steamship agent, sworn.

Q. What is your occupation? A. Commission merchant.

Q. That is all your business, is it? A. I am a steamship agent also.

Q. How long have you been connected with the commission business? A. For about 16 or 17 years.

Q. Can you give the Commission some idea of the cost of flour, cornmeal and feed in the years 1877, 1882 and 1887? A. I have been altogether in fish.

Q. State the difference in price now and ten years ago, or between the dates just mentioned? A. I cannot say to a certainty, but I think the prices of dry fish rule about the same. It depends on the catch in a great measure. Dry fish this last year has been higher than for some years.

Q. Are there as many employed at catching fish as there were ten years ago? A. I think the banking outfit was larger last year than for some years. I am not interested in the outfitting. I buy more here.

Q. Was there as much fish brought in last year as during any of the ten years previous? A. I should say there was. Perhaps there was less shore fish and more bank fish.

Q. Do you dry fish? A. No; we simply buy it; we do not make it.

By Mr. J. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you deal any in fresh fish? A. No.

Q. Are you familiar with that branch of trade? A. No.

Q. Do you know whether it could be made more profitable and less risky if refrigerator cars were brought into use? A. Yes; it would make it less risky. It is just a question of cost. It would be less risky of course.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you handle flour? A. No.

DARTMOUTH, 11th April, 1888.

JOHN F. STAIRS (re-examined April 11th, 1888) proprietor Dartmouth Rope Works, sworn and examined.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Have you anything to state with respect to the alleged dismissal by you of a number of boys since the Labor Commission began its sittings at Halifax? A. I wish to state for the information of the Commission that there is no truth whatever in the report; neither myself nor any man in my employ dismissed any one on account of his age or for any other cause indeed. When I gave my evidence the other day I knew, of course, that in a factory like ours we are apt to dismiss men and boys, and I denied then that we dismissed any one on account of his age, and I have made enquiries since and find that we have only dismissed two hands since the 1st of March, one a girl and one a boy, and they were not dismissed for that reason.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are you able to tell us whether you have at the present time fewer young children than ordinarily? A. No fewer; just about the same. I think, as a matter of fact, that we have hardly any children in our employ under fifteen; we may have one or two, but very few.

FREDERICK SCARFE, manufacturer of doors, &c., sworn and examined.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What is the nature of your work? A. Planing and moulding mill, and the manufacture of doors, sashes and frames.

Q. How long have you been in this business? A. Sixteen years.

Q. Do you employ men in the business yourself? A. Yes.

Q. How many men do you employ? A. It varies considerably, from four and five to seven and eight.

Q. Do you employ bench hands too? A. Yes.

Q. What wages do you give your bench hands? Fifteen and sixteen cents an hour.

Q. The men you keep employed on the planer and moulding machines, what do you pay them? A. The same rate.

Q. Do you employ more labor at present than you did five years ago? A. Barely one-half. Did you say five years ago?

Q. Yes? A. Just about the same.

Q. How as to ten years ago? A. About one-half.

Q. That is you do not employ within half of what you did ten years ago? A. About one-half of what I did ten years ago.

Q. Has the work generally fallen off? Q. Unquestionably.

Q. Where do you buy most of the stock that you use for doors and for building purposes; can you get it in close proximity to your place? A. That would be very hard to answer in consequence of purchasing eastward and westward and along the line and other parts, and to say where the greatest quantity comes from I could not.

Q. How is the price of lumber to-day compared with five or ten years ago? A. There is very little change indeed with the exception of first-class lumber, which has somewhat risen.

- Q. You build houses I presume? A. I do not.
- Q. You just merely make sashes and frames? A. Just the preparation for them.
- Q. How is the price of sashes, frames, &c., compared with the prices of ten or five years ago? A. About from ten to fifteen per cent. less.
- Q. And the rate of wages in the same period? A. No more.
- Q. They stand about the same? A. As nearly as possible.
- Q. You own a building of your own? A. I do.
- Q. About what do rooms or a tenement house for three or four persons to live in cost over here (Dartmouth); what amount would you pay for rent if you hired one by the month? A. They generally get two rooms, I think.
- Q. Well, two rooms? A. They average from 75 cents to \$1 a week.
- Q. I suppose there are houses here containing from four to six rooms? A. Yes.
- Q. What would they cost per week? A. They would be let by the year.
- Q. What would they cost per year? A. A house of from four to six rooms would cost \$80 a year.
- Q. Would a person hiring rooms of that kind have to pay water taxes and other town taxes as well? A. They usually pay no taxes at all except a poll tax.
- Q. What would the poll tax be? A. \$2 a year.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

- Q. Have you any boys in the planing mill? A. No.
- Q. Have you got a machine called a sharper? A. No; I have not.
- Q. Have any accidents happened around the saws? A. Yes.
- Q. Are they frequent? A. No.
- Q. Is there any protection, such as guards around the saws? A. No; I do not use guards.
- Q. What was the nature of the last accident? A. I cut my arm.
- Q. Do the men happen with accidents? A. I do not think there has been any accident happen to the men this last six years.
- Q. Have you a fan to take away the dust from the planer? A. I have not.
- Q. Is it very dusty there where the men work in that part of the shop? A. No; my premises are situate on the waterside and they are open back and front and are from 11 to 12 feet stories and usually we have too much draught and ventilation to allow a large accumulation of dust.
- Q. Is there much draught in the winter time? A. More than we want.
- Q. Have you got any conveniences for the men? A. Yes.
- Q. Are the men allowed a certain time to sharpen their tools, or do they have to do that during their own time? A. It is all done in my time.
- Q. How often are your men paid? A. Once a week.
- Q. In cash? A. In cash.

By the CHAIRMAN :—

- Q. Is there paid to them their money up to the day they are paid? A. I pay up to the day.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG :—

- Q. Do you do any outside jobs? A. Occasionally.
- Q. Have you got any men employed permanently for that kind of work? A. No.

Q. What would you pay a carpenter for doing that kind of work? A. I should send one of my own bench hands to do the work the same as if he was in the shop.

By Mr. FREED :—

- Q. How many hours constitutes a day's work? A. Ten in summer.
- Q. And in winter? A. According to the circumstances of the trade. Seven, eight or nine hours according to circumstances.



Q. Do you pay the men then in proportion to the rate you pay them in summer?  
A. The same proportion winter and summer, that is by the hour.

Q. Do you know if any of your men own property? A. I do not think any of them working for me at present own any, but sometimes I have men who own their own property working for me.

Q. Who paid for it out of their wages? A. Not by my employment.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. They have paid for it out of the wages they have earned from others as well as from you? A. I should presume so.

CHARLES WATERFIELD, (Dartmouth Rope Works), sworn and examined.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. In what department are you employed? A. Getting orders ready to be shipped and working around the shipping part more particularly.

Q. How long have you been employed at this business? A. About five years.

Q. What age were you when you entered it? A. 23.

Q. You are now 28? A. Yes.

Q. What wages did you receive when you first entered there? A. \$1 a day.

Q. What wages do you receive now? A. \$1 a day.

Q. That is a kind of staple pay? A. Yes; it is a kind of staple job.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are you married? A. Yes.

Q. How many in family? A. Two children.

Q. Can you maintain a family of four on \$1 a day in comfort? A. Pinched.

Q. Do you get constant work the year round? A. Yes; pretty constant, unless it was last year.

Q. Have you managed so far to meet expenses without getting into debt? A. No; hardly.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. You have not run into debt? A. I have a little. It is the last year only I got work steady.

Q. How many rooms have you got? A. I live outside the city.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What rent do you pay? A. \$1 a week.

Q. You have only had constant work for a year? A. Yes; that is to work the whole year out.

Q. Is the money you owe a debt that has been hanging over you from the time you were not constantly employed? A. Yes; previous to last year.

Q. You are able to pay your way now? A. Yes; and I am paying some of the old and I am living in hopes.

Q. Your employer treats you well? A. Yes; my employer treats me well.

Q. Are there any young lads employed in your department? A. No; there is no young lads employed in my department.

Q. As to the conveniences for both sexes, are they separate? A. Yes; the conveniences for the men are outside of the women's altogether.

Q. How far away? A. They are about in the centre of the works for the men.

Q. Is there any trouble about the men who may be called once or twice during the day? A. No; not as I know of.

Q. Are the managers kind to the men? A. They are business persons and straight.

Q. When are you paid ? A. Fortnightly.

Q. Are any of your wages kept back ? A. Three days. On Tuesday night is the time we are paid up to, but we are not paid till the Friday night.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Would the men prefer being paid more frequently than once a fortnight ? A. No, I do not think they would ; they did pay a few years ago once a week.

Q. How many hands are there in the establishment ? A. I should say about 150 in the day time.

Q. You can only speak definitely I suppose of your own department ? A. That is all.

Q. But do you know if any fines are imposed for any cause ? A. There is a fine for lateness and for other causes. There are rules laid down which all understand.

Q. Are all employed—boys, men and girls—subject to those fines for being late ? A. Yes ; all hands.

Q. Is the amount of the fine mentioned in these rules which are printed ? A. Yes ; they are for loss of work more than anything else. The rules are that a bell rings ten minutes before working, and a horn five minutes before, this is to enable the men to get in between them, that is before the big horn blows ; if you come in after this horn you are liable to lose a quarter of a day, and if after the big horn a half a day.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. They cut a quarter for coming in between the first horn and the time ? A. Yes.

Q. But you are not obliged to work that quarter of a day that you lose ? A. I have never been late myself ; the rule is not, however, strictly enforced.

JAMES SHRUM, teamster, rope works, sworn and examined.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How long have you been engaged in the Dartmouth Rope Works ? A. Fifteen years.

Q. What age were you when you started teaming ? A. I have been teamstering all my life, but not there all the time. I have been at different places.

Q. When you were first employed where you are now what wages did you receive per week or per fortnight ? A. \$1 a day.

Q. What do you receive now ? A. \$7 a week.

Q. Are you paid weekly or fortnightly ? A. Fortnightly.

Q. How many horses do you care for ? A. A pair.

Q. Can you drive a pair ? A. Yes.

Q. What time do you go to work in the morning ? A. Half-past six, at times at five.

Q. What time do you knock off ? A. All hours.

Q. What do you call all hours ? A. From seven to eight and half-past seven and half-past eight, and so on.

Q. What detains you all that time ? A. Going around with the loads. It may be five or six before I leave Dartmouth and then when I deliver my load and get home it is late.

Q. You are responsible for the delivery of the output, no matter what time it is ? A. Yes ; and sometimes the places are shut up and I have to drive it back.

Q. Have you any fault to find with your employer ? A. No.

Q. Does he treat you well ? A. Yes ; he has always since I have been there.

Q. Are you a married man ? A. Yes.

Q. Have you many children? A. Yes.

Q. Do you hire rooms? A. I have a house which I am paying for, and I hope it will be mine sometime.

Q. It is in the Building Society? A. Yes.

Q. How does this Building Society work, are you well satisfied with the mode and manner of their doing business with you? A. It is pretty good in one way and hard in another.

Q. Tell us how? A. If you do not meet your rent for the month you are fined twenty-five cents, but still I have got along with it so far.

Q. You have not been fined have you? A. Yes.

Q. You try to carry out your agreement as near as you can? A. Yes; I do.

Q. About what does it cost for a man hiring a tenement with from three to four rooms in any kind of a central locality? A. I could not say.

Q. Did you ever hire a room? A. Yes; when first married I did. I paid \$1 a week, that is the general thing.

Q. How long do you expect it to take for you to pay for your house, that is from the time you first commenced to pay? A. Eleven years and seven months was the agreement.

Q. What is your monthly payment? A. \$6 a month.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What was the amount you were to pay for the building at first? A. \$600.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. That pays interest as well as principal? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Do you know the rate of interest you pay? A. No; I do not really.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. You had a schedule of the prices or charges at least? A. The interest all goes with the principal, both go together.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Is the fine imposed according to the amount loaned? A. Yes.

Q. What would be the fine on your \$6 a month if not paid up? A. Twenty-five cents per month as you don't pay added on to it.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Supposing you do not pay for four months? A. It would be that much bigger; you never lose on it—it is always getting on to it, at least it always did on to me.

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HAVELOCK GATES, employé rope works, sworn and examined.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How long have you been employed there? A. Five years.

Q. How old are you now? A. Nineteen.

Q. What did you receive when you were first employed there? A. Eight dollars a month.

Q. In what capacity are you employed? A. Shipping clerk at present.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. In what capacity were you when you went in there at fourteen? A. Weighing rope and helping to ship it.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. As a generally handy man all round? A. Yes.



Q. What wages are you in receipt of now? A. \$30 a month.

Q. How is it that some men are paid fortnightly and you monthly? A. All clerks are paid monthly and the factory hands fortnightly.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Are there a number of female operatives in the factory? A. Yes; there is.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do the male and female operatives around the institution have access to the same water closets? A. No.

Q. They are in different localities in the works? A. Yes; one is inside and the other is outside.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. Do you ever hear them make any complaint as to the treatment they receive from the foreman or others? A. No.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you know of any of the foremen or others in the factory striking young girls? A. No.

Q. You do not think the employés would allow it? A. No; they would not.

Q. Would the employers? A. No.

Q. Do you know if the foremen swear or curse at the girls? A. No; they do not as I know of.

Q. You do not think the employés would allow it to be done? A. No; they would not. They would raise a row about it.

JUDSON GATES, employé rope works, sworn and examined.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How long are you employed there? A. Two years.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. What are you doing? A. At the oakum.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. It is not a trade that requires an ingenious mind to understand working at it? A. No.

Q. About what wages do you receive? A. I get \$3 a week.

Q. Are you married? A. No.

Q. Have you any fault to find with your employer? A. No.

Q. Are you treated well? A. Yes.

By the CHAIRMAN:—

Q. You hope to get better wages? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Is there a schedule of prices as to what you are to get in the department you are in? A. No.

Q. Are the men paid according to the work they do? A. Yes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:—

Q. Are any young girls employed on the oakum? A. No.

LONDONDERRY, 12th April, 1888.

HUGH McLEOD, carpenter, Londonderry Iron Company, sworn and examined.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How long have you been in the employ of the Londonderry Iron Company?  
A. About ten years and six months.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. Ten hours.

Q. You begin at 7 o'clock in the morning? A. Yes.

Q. And quit at 6 o'clock at night? A. Yes.

Q. What wages do receive just now? A. \$1.40 a day.

Q. Is that the wages you receive the year round? A. For the past two or three years I had not that much.

Q. Do you get constant employment the year round? A. Yes.

Q. You are paid as the other hands, once a month? A. Yes.

Q. Are you ever required to work at night? A. Sometimes.

Q. Are you paid for night work at the same rate that you receive for day work?  
A. Yes; just exactly.

Q. No extra? A. No extra.

Q. Do you get any extra allowance of time for working at night? A. No; I do not.

Q. Just the actual time you work? A. Yes.

Q. Are any boys employed in your department? A. No boys younger than 17.

Q. Are there any men employed as carpenters who are not skilled workmen?  
A. Yes.

Q. What rate of wages do they receive? A. I cannot answer that question with truth, as I do not know.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you own your own house? A. I do.

Q. Have you accumulated the money to buy the property since you have been working here, or was it before? A. Since I commenced this employment.

Q. Do you rent any part of the house you own? A. No; not just now; I did just before last fall.

Q. How many rooms did you rent in that house? A. Four; I had two tenements.

Q. Four rooms in both? A. Yes.

Q. And what did you receive from each tenement per month? A. I received when times were middling good \$3 for one apartment and \$2 for the other.

Q. And what do you receive when times are not good? A. \$2, and \$1 at the least.

Q. Do you pay any proportionate part of your wages towards the doctor, or is it per an arrangement individually made with him? A. Yes.

Q. Is that arrangement or agreement voluntarily entered into by yourself? A. No.

Q. Does the company compel you to pay this man? A. No; that was a rule got up some years ago by the working class of people to hire a doctor and pay him so much a month each.

Q. How much do you pay? A. 40 cents.

Q. Suppose, for instance, that you had a son aged 21 years, and he was living in the house with you, would he have to pay 40 cents as well towards the doctor?  
A. Yes.

Q. Suppose you had four sons, would each have to pay after arriving at the age of 21 years? A. I had three, and they had to pay it; I cannot say anything about the fourth.

Q. Each one had to pay? A. Yes.

Q. Had they to pay before becoming 21 years of age? A. Yes; they had.

Q. About what taxes do you pay on the property you own? A. I used to pay \$2.50; this year the taxes are \$2.28, for I got the bill yesterday. That is \$2.28 for the poor and county tax.

Q. What do you pay for school tax? A. I paid \$2.50 last fall.

Q. That is altogether you pay \$4.78? A. There are other taxes besides that, poor rates, &c.

Q. They are levied outside of that? A. Yes; I do not know what they will be.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Does every person pay 40 cents a month to the doctor? A. Yes; that is what I pay.

By Mr. HAGGARTY:—

Q. What would be the assessed value of your property? A. They assessed it at \$250—that is what it says.

Q. Does that include your poll tax also; do the boys or your sons working in the mines pay any part of the taxes, except poll tax? A. No; they pay no taxes.

Q. How are you paid, fortnightly or monthly? A. Monthly.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you ever give orders on the company to any of the stores? A. No.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Did you serve your time at the carpenter's trade? A. I have.

Q. Were you indentured? A. No.

Q. Did you serve your time in this country? A. Yes.

GEORGE GOUGH, puddler, sworn and examined.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. You heard the testimony of the last witness? A. Yes.

Q. Do you approve of it substantially? A. I should like the payment of wages every fortnight. I think myself it would be more convenient for the men. It would give them a chance of using the money to the best advantage instead of going as now to the stores or giving them the benefit it would go to the men, and they then could lay out their own money. I always had it myself and I worked at puddling in the old country for ten years, and I have been here nearly eleven months, but where I have been always I was in the habit of getting our pay every week, and they keep a week's pay in hand. Here is the longest, and here they pay on the 15th and there is six weeks you have to work here before you get any pay. They keep a fortnight off your pay in hand all the time, and I object to that a great deal, and think if a man had his pay every fortnight he could use it to better advantage.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Was there as many hands working in this place at home as here? A. About 700.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What was the rate per ton when you worked there? A. It varied with different classes of iron. The lowest price was seven and sixpence per ton, and about twelve months before I came away they had it down to seven shillings—of course I did not puddle for that myself, but it ran from ten shillings to seven shillings a ton or from seven to ten and six pence a ton.

Q. Was that to puddler and helper? A. Yes; that was for the puddler and helper.



Q. It was very low? A. It was eleven and threepence and fourteen and sixpence when I worked first.

Q. What was the selling rate of iron? A. Bar iron, seven pounds per ton.

Q. Then you got an extra shilling in the pound? A. Yes.

Q. Did you not get a shilling in the pound and a shilling extra? A. In the last seven or eight years they did not get it; it is eight years I suppose since they took it off.

Q. Where did you work in England? A. In Cookly, Worcestershire.

Q. What was the cost of living in Worcestershire at that time compared with the cost of living in Londonderry? A. There is a difference. You get provisions in England much cheaper; the only thing a little extra is meat, but in everything else there is a difference and it is cheaper.

Q. What do you pay for bread there? A. Fourpence half-penny for a four pound loaf.

Q. What do you pay here? A. We bake our own here.

Q. What do you pay for flour? A. \$5.25 per barrel

Q. Do you think vegetables are cheaper in the old country than here? A. Yes.

Q. What did you pay for house rent? A. One shilling and sixpence I pay for where the wife is living at present.

Q. You board here now? A. Yes; I am boarding with my brother.

Q. What would you pay here for a house equal to that for which you are paying eighteen pence a week in England? A. For a house like she lives in at present we would pay \$2 a month for here.

Q. How many rooms are there in it? A. Four downstairs—or at least three rooms downstairs, for one room is divided into two with a wooden partition. The house my wife is living in now is worth four dollars to the one I am paying two dollars a month for; these here are only board houses and they are much colder than a brick house.

Q. How much do you pay in the old country for coals? A. If we went to the pit for it eight shillings, and if they deliver it we get it for eleven to thirteen shillings.

Q. You get it a little less here? A. I believe it is \$2.50 here or \$2.75. I pay part with my brother.

Q. Have you constant work here? A. I have been four days idle an account of the furnace.

Q. Does that frequently happen? A. It happens perhaps once in twelve months and it may be less than that.

Q. Take one year with another or one month with another how much do you think you would be laid off? A. I could hardly tell you.

Q. Take one month with the other what do you think would be your average month's earnings? A. I guess we should work five or four and a-half days a week. that would be 22 days a month.

Q. Can you remember what your monthly payments have been so as to fix an average of what you receive? A. About \$45 to \$50 a month would run pretty near the average.

Q. You change from day shift to night shift? A. Yes; one week days and one week nights.

Q. How many hours a day do you work taking one week with another? A. I think it would run pretty near eleven and a half hours a day. A man must turn out to work at ten minutes to four, and it is around three or four o'clock before he can get off again.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Did you come to this country of your own accord? A. I was out of work seven weeks and could not strike work anywhere, and I thought it was time to make a move to somewhere, and I went to Montreal last June.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you know if the company has ever imported from or sent to England or Scotland for puddlers? A. That I am not prepared to say.

Q. Did you ever know of any company sending for men to come out? A. I heard rumors of it, but I could not rely upon them; it was only from hearsay.

Q. You worked at Montreal in the same business, did you? A. No; I worked there as helper for a blacksmith.

Q. You have nothing to complain of about the mill here except their not paying more frequently than at present? A. I think the men would be more satisfied if they were paid once a fortnight.

Q. And that the men ought to be paid up to the night or two nights before pay day, so as to let them fix up affairs? A. To fix up affairs in the old country they generally used to keep one week in hand.

Q. Do you not think that the men ought to be paid up to the end of the preceding week? A. Yes; I think a man is fully entitled to it; one week is quite sufficient to keep back. I could mention two or three places where they only keep back two or three days, and then the men ride over that, as they think one day is sufficient; and I could name factories where one day only is considered sufficient to keep back, and where there are no boys allowed to work under 13 years of age and they have passed a certain standard in school before they can go to work.

Q. Do you think there are any boys under 13 years of age working in the mills here? A. I could not tell you that. I see some very small. I think if the question was put to them that you would find some not 13.

Q. Do you know if they put boys to work in England as young as they put them to work out here? A. At thirteen they are supposed to go to work if they have passed the third standard, or the fourth standard I rather think it is.

Q. And they must have a certificate that they passed that? A. Yes; from the school master, and I believe they get one from the Government as well.

Q. Is there any person in England—any inspector—during your time, to look after the men and to see they were paid in the given time? Do you know of any law to protect the workman in that respect? A. I do not think there is any inspector on that, but there is an inspector for looking after accidents and after the boys going to work under age, and there is an inspector to come and see that all machinery is put up safe, and that guards are on, and that no accidents happen, and if they do to enquire. They are supposed to come round once in three months to see everything is in straight and in order and no boys allowed to intermeddle with work not belonging to them. I know in the place I came from that no boy was allowed to interfere with anything that did not concern him, and if he did they fined him one shilling, which would be stopped out of his wages, and if he interfered again he would be cautioned or sent about his business.

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ARCHIBALD MUIR, assistant manager Londonderry Iron Company, sworn and examined.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How long have you been in the employment of the company? A. About nine years.

Q. You have a pretty good knowledge of the occupations and the earnings of the men employed there? A. A very fair knowledge.

Q. Are you in a position at present to tell us anything about the earnings of the men? A. Well, I would prefer having a little time to go into that in order to give you anything like the proper and right figures.

Q. Can you supply the Commission before it shall leave Londonderry to-morrow with a statement of the average earnings of the various classes of men employed by the company? A. I shall do my best to do so; would you like to have the average for each department, say, in the blacksmiths, machinists, carpenters, &c.?



Q. Yes, in each department? A. That is take the rolling mill for instance,—there is a variety of occupations, puddlers, heaters, helpers, &c., and you want all these itemised?

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Can you tell us the number of hours they work? A. We cannot pretend to give you the number of hours each man works in the works, you surely would not ask us for that, we will give you the average of these.

Q. Is there not a regular number of hours per day that they work? A. There is of course and in going into the books we could give it as so many working days by each man, but we have a great number of men working and we can give you the average number of days' work we do in a month.

Q. Can you not tell us how many hours a day puddlers work in the rolling mill; it varies, I suppose, but what is the average number of hours the puddlers work? A. Probably 10, 11, and 12 hours a day.

Q. Are they paid by the day? A. No; by the ton.

Q. How much would a puddler receive for a day's work? A. That depends often a good deal upon himself.

Q. You could not give us what you call a good average day's work? A. I would put it down that a puddler earns every day about \$2.50 on an average.

Q. That would be for working from 8 to 10 hours per day? A. No; I said from 10 to 12.

Q. Then as to the heaters, what would they receive? A. I do not want to give figures as I have not those things at my fingers' ends; I am prepared, however, to go into the books, or to show you the books if you desire it. I will have a statement prepared as to these matters in the morning,

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Were you in the employ of the company when it went into liquidation? A. Yes.

Q. How often do they pay the men here? A. When they went into liquidation we paid every four weeks; every third pay was a five weeks pay; we had twelve pays in the year—we had a five weeks pay every third month.

Q. Was there any wages remaining in the hands of the company at the time they went into liquidation—were the men unpaid at the time? A. Yes.

Q. Did they ever receive the money due them at that time? A. Certainly not, no. The money that was held previous to the company going into liquidation is still owing the men.

Q. Are some of the men then in the employ of that company still working? A. Yes; many of them.

Q. These men never received anything in consideration of that—understand now, we do not want you to say anything that would prejudice you in any way and, therefore, do not answer any question not legitimate and right? A. I understand that; I would not think for a moment of saying anything else.

Q. There have been rumors set about that the company owed the people, and that they paid some and did not pay others? A. We are dealing with the Londonderry Iron Company; at the time this company went into liquidation it was called the "Steel Company of Canada," and we are dealing now with a different company.

Q. This company has nothing to do with the Steel Company? A. Certainly not.

Q. You bought out the right and title that existed at that time of the old company? A. Well, I understand that the property has been taken over by this new company, by the Londonderry Iron Company, that is, the property of the Steel Company.

Q. The original company, as I understand it, failed and went into liquidation, and then a new company was formed, and some of the original owners are in this



company—that is, some of the original stockholders in that company are in this new company?

The CHAIRMAN:—Is this not going into private affairs?

This is, I understand, a Labor Commission affair, and I do not see that that makes any difference in it.

Q. How often do you pay the men now? A. Monthly.

Q. Just as formerly? A. No; there is a change in that respect. We pay on the fifteenth of the month up to end of previous month.

Q. Do you pay them in full up to that time? A. Yes; they are paid their wages in full up to that time, less the amount retained for house rent or coal supplied during the month, and the doctor's fees are also retained.

Q. Do you have a general store in connection with the works? A. No.

Q. You just simply rent some houses belonging to the company to tenants, and keep that much off the amount due them on the books? A. Yes; and there is something else. There are some store keepers who get orders from the men to pay them so much and otherwise we do not keep the amount. These men send the orders into the office and we keep the amounts from the pay of the men and pay to the store keepers.

Q. Does the company get any percentage on the amount of these orders they pay for the men? A. No; the amount retained is given to the store keeper.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. The company has no interest in the stores? A. No.

By Mr. HAGGARTY:—

Q. The men give the orders themselves? A. Yes.

Q. It is not done without the consent of the men? A. No; the men have to sign the orders. There is no order accepted in the office without the man's signature is to it.

Q. Do the company own many houses around here? A. They own considerable—I could not just say the number at the present time.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Would the men living in the houses rented by the company have the preference of work? A. Well, we do not generally have men living in the houses except they are really employed by the company.

Q. Do you import any foreign labor for the company here? A. Well, we got a few puddlers recently, that is about the only thing I know of and we got the puddlers because we could not get the men to do the work in the country.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Could not these be got in this country? A. No; if you could tell us where we could find them in Nova Scotia it would, perhaps, save us some expense.

By Mr. HAGGARTY:—

Q. What would be the average rent of one of those houses? A. Well, we have houses that we charge, I think, as low as \$1.20 or \$1.50 a month for.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. How many rooms would there be in that kind of house? A. There are a lot of tenements there which you can see like a barracks, all in a row.

By Mr. HAGGARTY:—

Q. There would be three or four rooms? A. There would be probably about three rooms and a kitchen or cooking place.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are those the best class of houses that you rent? A. No.

Q. What would be the character of the best class of houses? A. We have houses up the street, that is those little cottages on the right hand going up, and these, I think, we get \$4 or \$4.50 a month for.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. In Halifax rents are about a dollar a week, so there is quite a difference?  
A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How many shifts are there in the blast furnace? A. Two.

Q. How many hours do each work? A. They take a night turn every alternate week, the men on the night shift go on at five o'clock and get out at seven.

Q. At seven in the morning? A. Yes. Then they work ten hours and on the other shift fourteen, but that is an arrangement amongst the men as it should only be twelve hours each shift.

Q. The men who work fourteen hours, how much time have they for meals?  
A. The men have probably a third of their time.

Q. They are not actively engaged all that time? A. No; it depends entirely upon how the furnaces are running; they get sitting spells probably for an hour.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Do they work on Sundays? A. The furnace men do.

Q. Do they get anything extra for work done on that day? A. No.

Q. Just the same as for the week days? A. Yes.

Q. Did I understand you to say that you pay monthly yet? A. We pay the fifteenth of every month.

Q. Have the men ever asked to be paid more frequently? A. I do not think it; I do not know.

Q. Have you ever taken into consideration the fact that it would be better to pay them fortnightly? A. It might be for some reasons and for others it would not be.

Q. And in case the firm failed there would be no difficulty in the managers running away with six weeks pay of the men? A. That is the first I have heard of men running off with the money.

Q. The proprietors of the concern failed and the men lost their money any way?  
A. They did not lose their money.

Q. They never got it yet? A. I suppose they will.

Q. I said if they were paid fortnightly it would be better all round? A. Perhaps it might or might not be better.

Q. Do you think there would be any trouble in getting their money ready for them in that time? A. It would entail some trouble. There are other things as well to be taken into consideration.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you work double or single shifts in the rolling mill? A. Double shifts in the puddling department.

Q. How many hours do the different hands work? A. Those are puddlers and as I mentioned before from 10 to 12.

Q. In the other departments of the rolling mill do they work double or single shafts? A. Single shafts.

Q. How many hours do they work? A. I have seen them work double time.

Q. Do they get the same per hour for the second? A. There they are generally paid by the ton.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. The principal work in that department they do it by piece work? A. Yes.

Q. That is for rolling and all kinds? A. Yes; principally by the ton.

Q. Take the man who does the puddling he has whatever amount is got through, that is the amount of tons he gets out? A. Not the amount he puts into the furnace but he is paid for what he turns out.

Q. You have a lot of men at the mines in connection with the same thing? A. Yes.

Q. How do these men work, by the day or by the piece? A. Some by the day and some by the piece.

Q. How do you gauge the difference, does a man contract for taking it out at so much per ton? A. Yes.

Q. What per ton do you pay? A. I am not prepared to say just now, because these contract books are kept at the mines by the superintendent up there.

Q. How much do you pay generally to the men working at the mines? A. As I said before I am not prepared to give you the exact figures.

Q. You are not acquainted with the figures up there? A. If you had notified me earlier I would have been prepared for you and could have answered all such questions.

By Mr. HAGGARTY:—

Q. Is there a doctor employed by the company? A. He is employed by the men.

Q. Both here and at the mines? A. There is one who acts for the men at the mines and here.

Q. But who hires him, the company or the men? A. He is hired by the men.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Suppose a man gets hurt at the mill—there has been something broken down suddenly and he is maimed or scalded or burned or something of that sort—does the company usually pay the doctor's bill or is he paid just for the time he has worked till he met with the accident, does he lose the rest of the time either when caused by sickness or by such accident? A. When a man gets injured he is attended by the doctor for his monthly fees and there is no other bill in connection with it and as to paying men who get hurt we are not in the habit of doing so.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. There is no fund or society by which a man who gets hurt receives aid? A. The miners here, I believe, have some such fund, and there was such a fund in connection with the rolling mill hands at one time, but these are outside of the company.

Q. Does the company contribute anything towards any fund of that sort? A. No.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. These tenements that you rent, have they conveniences, such as water closets, &c.? A. No; the bulk of them have places built outside somewhere.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Do they provide wells for this row of houses? A. There are wells.

Q. Does the men have to provide them themselves? A. They are there, but I do not know who dug them.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Are these wells in close proximity to each house? A. There are wells, but I cannot say they are close to each house.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Are accidents very frequent in the mills? A. Not what you would say very frequent, considering the number of men there.

A—16½\*\*



By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Does the company supply the men with coal? A. Yes.

Q. Free? A. No.

Q. Does the company charge them a less rate than the public? A. Yes; I think they charge the men \$2.75 and the public \$3.

Q. Does the company contribute anything in the way of providing schools? A. The company contributes very largely from the fact of the taxes coming in pretty heavily. We got the bill to-day for school taxes, \$700, and it is too much indeed for the company to pay.

Q. Does the company pay in proportion to the other property in the school district? A. Yes.

Q. Just the same, on its assessed value? A. Yes.

Q. And they contribute the larger portion of the school tax? A. Of course they do. I suppose the school tax this year will probably be some \$1,200 or \$1,300, and our bill to-day is \$700.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Who do you think ought to pay this school tax, supposing it was not assessed on the company. A. I am not prepared to say about that at all; that is a wide scope you are taking; there is a good deal of property around here that includes poor and other taxes.

Q. You get no exemption from the county from any tax? A. No.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Is there not an inspector appointed by the Government who comes around occasionally to inspect the works and who sees as to the causes of the accidents and so forth? A. Not that I am aware of; the mines' inspector has been to the mines occasionally and that is the only inspector I know of.

Q. How often does the mines inspector come around and examine the mine? A. I do not know.

Q. Is there any sub-inspector? A. The sub-inspector was the last man I saw there.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Can you tell us how many men there are in the employ of the company? A. About 500, I think.

Q. That is in the whole establishment, mines and all? A. In the whole establishment.

Q. How many of these would be employed in the mines? A. Up here, I suppose 160.

Q. And the rest then are in the rolling mill and the blast furnace? A. There is about 30 or 40 up at East Mines.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Up at Folleigh Hill? A. Folleigh Mountain.

Q. Are the mining districts out there as valuable as those here? A. Not quite.

Q. There is a different kind of ore? A. We draw the bulk of the ore from this mine out here.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Where do you get the coal from principally? A. From Stellarton district, and a good share from Springhill.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you coke it yourself? A. Yes; we coke the Springhill ourselves.

Q. Do you mix bituminous with the coke for the furnaces? A. Very little.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. I was speaking about accidents just now—did I understand that accidents that happened were through the fault of the men? A. I am aware of nothing else.

Q. Has there ever been an accident from the hoisting gear of the elevator over the furnace? A. Yes; there has been an accident there.

Q. Was that the fault of the man? A. I think the last accident that took place was from the man looking out when he should not have been doing so, but I do not know whose fault it was.

Q. Was he hurt much? A. The man died from it.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Is there a *post mortem* examination held when an accident terminates fatally? A. When it is supposed to be on account of anybody's negligence there would be.

Q. Have you had many deaths happen through negligence or through accidents in the factory within the last four or five years? A. I cannot remember; I think there has only been one when a man was caught in the squeezer.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Has any man been blacklisted on account of being prominent in speaking at meetings of the men or anything of that kind? A. No; not that I know of.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Have you any objection to employing men connected with labor organization or trade unions? A. None in the least.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Do you think there is any way or means by which the men could get their back pay—is there any prospects of an immediate settlement or settlement in the near future? A. All I know about it is that the men are creditors of course to the old company, and they, I suppose, will have to rank with the other creditors.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. None of the other creditors are paid are they? A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. You will be good enough to give us the statement as to the wages earned by the different classes of men in the employ of the company? A. Yes.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. And also the average number of hours per day they have to work to earn that money? A. I can do as I said before, I can give you the average for the whole crowd.

The following are the figures referred to in the evidence of Mr. Muir:—

*Memo. of Wages paid Workmen at the Londonderry Iron Company's Ore Mines.*

Miners, average day's pay, \$1.62 per day of 9 hours.		
do laborers, \$1.07, \$1.15 and \$1.35 per day of 9 hours.		
do boys, 30 and 90 cents per day of 9 hours.		
Carpenters, \$1.45 and \$1.35 per day of 10 hours.		
Blacksmiths, \$1.70 and \$1.35	do	10 do
Engine keepers, \$1.25	do	12 do
Firemen, \$1.25 and \$1.15	do	12 do
Timbermen, \$1.36	do	9 do
Landers, \$1.15 and \$1.19	do	9 do
Pony drivers, \$1.07	do	9 do
Trackmen, \$1.35 and \$1.07	do	10 do
Laborers, \$1.07	do	10 do

By M

Average Pay for Three Months ending 31st March, 1888.

Q. Does

Wages paid furnace men, &amp;c. :—

Keepers, \$2.30 per day of 12 hours.

do helpers, \$1.25 per day of 12 hours.

Slaggers, \$1.32 do do

Gasmen, \$1.80 do do

Clay mixer, \$1.38 do do

Weighers, \$1.46 do do

Chargers, \$1.24 do do

Ore fillers, \$1.16 do do

Coke fillers, \$1.14 do do

Engine keepers, \$1.63 do do

Boilermen, \$1.30 do do

Ore pickers, \$1 do do

Pig iron lifters, \$1.65 and \$1.25 per day of 12 hours.

Slag removers, \$1.50 and \$1.25 do do

Average pay for three months ending 31st December, 1887, the furnace being stopped in January and February, 1888.

*Current Rate of Wages at Present Paid at Londonderry Iron Works, April, 1888.*

Wages paid mechanics, &amp;c. :—

Pattern makers, \$1.75 per day of 10 hours.

Moulders, \$2.10, \$1.70 and \$1.50 per day of 10 hours.

Blacksmiths, \$2, \$1.50, \$1.25 and \$1.10 per day of 10 hours.

Bricklayers, \$2 do do

Machinists, \$2, \$1.75, \$1.60, \$1.50, and \$1.25 do do

Carpenters, \$1.75, \$1.40, \$1.28, and \$1.25 do do

Locomotive engineer, \$60 and \$55 per month, average day, 10 hours.

do brakemen, \$1.50 and \$1.25 do do

do firemen, \$1.25 do do

General laborers, \$1.25, \$1.15, \$1.10 and \$1 per day of 10 hours.

Coke oven drawers, \$1.50 per day, piece work.

do chargers, \$1.65 do do

Wages paid mill men :—

Puddlers, \$2.20 per ton; average day's wages, \$2.50 to \$2.75.

do helpers, \$1.10 per ton; average day's wages, \$1.25 to \$1.35.

do bar rollers, 17 cents per ton; average day's pay, \$1.75 to \$2.00.

do roughers, 11 do do \$1.35 to \$1.50.

do catcher, 10 do do \$1.25 to \$1.35.

do do 8 do do \$1.10 to \$1.25.

do hookers (boys), average day's pay, 73 and 68 cents.

do draggers, average day's pay, \$1.03.

do lifters do do \$1.10.

do weigher do do \$1.15.

do cinder weighers, average day's pay, \$1.00 and \$1.04.

18 train rollers, \$2.28 (less the following) average, \$4.00 to \$6.00.

1 rougher, 23 cents per ton; average day's pay, \$2.50 to \$2.75.

2 catchers, 22 and 15 cents per ton; average day's pay, \$1.75 to \$2.50.

2 hookers, 8 and 6 cents do do 65 and 95 cents.

3 straighteners, 9 cents do do \$1.00 and \$1.10.

2 heaters, 55 cents do do \$2.75 to \$3.25.

2 do helpers, 24 cents do do \$1.35 to \$1.45.

9 train rollers, \$2.60 per ton (less the following), average day's pay \$4.00 to \$5.00.

2 roughers, 29 cents per ton; average day's pay, \$1.50.



1 catcher (boy),	17 cents per ton ;	average day's pay,	90 cents.
2 straighteners (boys)	11½ cents per ton ;	average day's pay,	65 cents.
1 hooker,	10½ do	do	60 do
1 dragger,	10½ do	do	60 do
1 heater,	55 cents per ton ;	average day's pay,	\$2.50 to \$3 00.
1 helper,	24 do	do	\$1.30 to \$1.40.

General laborers around mill average day's pay \$1 to \$1.20. The mill work is mostly piece work and the working hours depends upon the ability of the workmen and condition of machinery and quality of material worked and will run from 10 to 12 hours per shift. The preceding rates of wages have been paid during the past four years.

JOHN BATES, puddler, sworn and examined.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. In what department do you work? A. In various departments. I am not particular what they shove me to; I am puddling now.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. Sometimes more and sometimes less.

Q. What would be the average day's work for a puddler? A. Well, it would be hard for me to answer that question.

Q. How much do you receive per ton for puddling? A. That is a question I cannot answer.

Q. Do the puddlers pay their helpers out of their own wages or does the company pay them? A. It comes out of the puddlers' wages but the company pay them.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. What proportionate part of the puddlers' profits do the helpers get? A. One-third.

Q. How long have you been in the employ of the concern? A. Here?

Q. Yes? A. This last five and twenty years, more or less.

Q. Have you any fault to find generally with the concern as matters stand with you; do you get your pay as regularly as you require it or would you prefer it oftener? A. I would like it every day for the matter of that.

Q. You think you ought to be paid once a week or every fortnight do you? A. I think once a fortnight would be very satisfactory, but I do not know; that is my own opinion.

Q. I suppose you have given orders on the company to persons keeping stores here? A. Never.

Q. Do the men experience any inconvenience in connection with these orders, do the storekeepers here refuse to accept these orders on the company? A. No; I guess they are very glad to take them.

Q. Do they ever take any discount; for instance if a man goes in with cash and another with an order is there any difference in the cost to the two men? A. I guess there would be quite a difference with the man going in with the ready cash, but I do not know as I am not acquainted with such a matter. I never signed an order on the company for them to stop money from me for store bills. According to what the assistant manager says if a man wants credit at a store he goes to the office and puts his signature there for it to be stopped from him.

Q. Have you any fault to find with the affairs of the company in regard to you outside of their not paying you every week or fortnight? A. I would rather get paid every fortnight.

Q. Do you feel that you get well paid? A. No.

Q. Is not the price satisfactory? A. No.

Q. Can you tell us the difference in the prices paid now and five or ten years ago for puddling per ton; take 1877 for instance, what was paid then for puddling? A. I could tell you as to fifteen years ago.

Q. Give us that? A. There is about \$1.50 or \$2 per ton of a difference.

Q. Is the cost of living less now than it was fifteen years ago? A. More.

Q. It costs more to live? A. Yes.

Q. Does it cost more for house rent? A. Well, I don't live under the company.

Q. You own a house of your own? A. Yes.

Q. Does it cost more for the necessities of life, flour and potatoes? A. Flour is cheap enough, but the other necessities of life are higher than ten or fifteen years ago.

Q. You work steady right along all the year round? A. This last nine months, of course; it has not been always steady, sometimes a week off and sometimes two and three days.

Q. How much do you work on an average in a month? A. I cannot say, but you have been up there and you know the employment and when a man does a day's work there he cannot always do it.

Q. Taking one month with another about what would be the average of your monthly earnings? A. \$45, \$50, \$55, and perhaps \$60, or you may run up pretty near to it.

Q. For yourself? A. Yes.

Q. That is piece work? A. Yes.

Q. For two-thirds of the time you would run up to \$50 or about \$50 a month? A. No; I do not think it would.

Q. Do you think \$45 a month would be a fair average? A. Yes; we will say about \$50. That is if you work steady.

Q. Supposing you go to work for instance in the morning at one of these heats and you get out three heats ———? A. There are six heats per day.

Q. How much spare time would you have for yourself between the heats when you could sit down? A. You would have probably half an hour.

Q. Between each heat? A. Yes; generally.

Q. That would be about three hours in the day? A. Yes.

Q. These heats take each how long to do? A. Sometimes more and sometimes less; sometimes you can get them out in 10 hours, sometimes in 11 and sometimes not in 12.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Have you worked at this business in any other country besides this? A. Yes.

Q. How would the rate of wages paid here compare with those paid in other places? A. Well, in the United States—I am not prepared to say exactly—I think, though, it is something over a dollar more a ton than here.

Q. Would the cost of living be more than here? A. It might be something higher in the States than here on an average.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. You do not know what you get for puddling per ton here? A. I believe it is about \$2 a ton it averages, that is for the men.

Q. Do you know the rate in Eastern Pennsylvania? A. I could not answer that question exactly.

Q. Have you bought your house and property out of wages earned here? A. Well, I suppose I have.

Q. How much time do you calculate—taking one year with another—you are able to work—I mean how much time will the company permit you to work? A. That depends upon circumstances, sometimes they are not prepared for us to work.

Q. How much time have you averaged for the last four or five years? A. I cannot answer that question. Of course, I have earned some that I never got yet.

Q. That was due by the old company; I suppose you have got everything you earned from this company? A. Yes; I believe so.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Give us an idea of what it would cost to erect one of those little cottages on the hill? A. I could not tell you that; I am not prepared to answer that question.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Do you know how long it takes you to eat your breakfast in the morning—how long do you get? A. Sometimes half an hour or perhaps three-quarters of an hour. You cannot always eat it when you want it; we have to eat it at different times.

Q. And your dinner the same? A. Yes.

JAMES DAVIS, puddler, sworn and examined.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How much do you receive for puddling a ton of iron here? A. \$3.30 between the men and the helper.

Q. You get two-thirds of it? A. Yes; he gets one-third.

Q. How long have you worked for this company? A. Backwards and forwards 23 years last May. I cannot tell you what company I am working under.

Q. During the last few years how much time have you averaged each year? A. During the last four years I have averaged about four months in the year.

Q. Have the works been closed the rest of the time? A. They were closed for nine months at a spell.

Q. How long ago was that? A. Here last winter.

Q. How long has it been running now continuously without shutting down? A. It has been running about eight or nine months I guess.

Q. Where did you work for the time before you came to work here last? A. In the State of Pennsylvania, at Reading.

Q. You did not work under the Pittsburg rules? A. I worked in Pittsburg eight months, and in Reading and in Philadelphia.

Q. What did you get in Eastern Pennsylvania? A. \$4.15 a ton, the winter before this.

Q. What was the Pittsburg scale at that time? A. \$5.50.

Q. And the helper is paid out of this in both cases? A. Yes.

Q. Does the helper get the same proportion there, one-third? A. One-third everywhere.

Q. How much dearer is the cost of living in Reading than in Londonderry? A. Clothing is cheaper, only rent is dearer.

Q. How is the food? A. The meat is dearer than here.

Q. And bread? A. No, about the same; flour is about \$5 or \$5.50 per barrel.

Q. Vegetables? A. You get more advantages; you can go to market every day; if you have a penny you can take it, but here you have to have a lump.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How long have you been working at puddling? A. Thirty-four years.

Q. You say that the average work you have done for the last four years has been only four months in a year? A. About four months, but not more.

Q. But you have had for the last nine months, as I understand you? A. No; I said I have not had steady work for four or five years, but for the last eight or nine months.

Q. What would be the average of your earnings a month during the past eight or nine months? A. I cannot tell you that. Sometimes in a month there may be work, and then other months I do not work full time, and this last month I was idle nearly three weeks.

Q. What is the matter? A. They stopped my furnace for one thing, and I was sick about a week or more—eight or nine days.

Q. Have you got any property of your own? A. Nothing, only what I got on my back.

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. Have you got any family? A. I had eleven children.



Q. How many rooms do you occupy? A. I cannot tell you how many rooms, I never counted them. I am living where the company used to keep a boarding house.

Q. How much rent do you pay per month? A. \$4 a month; it is paid monthly, only mind these nine months I was away, and I went away because I was idle and no work for me here, and I have to pay that rent, and it is coming in now at \$6 a month.

Q. Was your family living here all that time? A. Yes; expecting I would get work again and come back, and then the double rent came on me.

Q. Do you think you could do better in the United States than here? A. I do not know; I was in the States backward and forward this last twenty-four years; the climate is warmer there; it is healthier here for working, only a man would have more salary may be in the States than he would have here.

Q. Have you any objections to the manner in which you are paid now—once a month—and do I understand it correctly that there is a fortnight's pay kept back as well as the month's? A. There is two weeks' pay in hand; that is, we work two weeks in hand.

Q. Do you think that payment of wages at shorter times would be of any benefit to the men? A. I would like to get the six weeks' pay they are keeping back from me.

Q. You would like to be paid every week or every fortnight? A. Every fortnight would be good enough.

Q. You would be satisfied with receiving your pay every fortnight? A. Yes; we would be better satisfied.

Q. Do you pay any taxes here? A. Yes.

Q. How much do you pay? A. I pay at about the rate of \$3 a year, I think it is.

Q. What is that for? A. School taxes, taxes for the county, road taxes, poor and county rates; there are about three or four taxes to pay.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Could you tell what your school tax would be? A. I had one dollar to pay for school taxes this year.

Q. That is only a poll tax; you are not taxed upon your property for a school rate? A. Where am I going to get it?

Q. I mean your personal property? A. No; I have not any.

Q. What do you pay the doctor per month? A. 45 cents a month.

Q. Of course he supplies all medicines in case of injury or sickness? A. He supplies everything.

Q. You say you pay \$1 a year for school tax? A. Yes; and \$1 or \$1.50 for road tax or road work, forty cents for poll tax—I do not remember the exact number of them but there are four or five taxes altogether.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are your houses comfortable houses? A. Yes.

Q. Does yours keep you well protected from the weather in the winter? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Have you any objection as to the company's mode of dealing with the coal; do they sell it cheaper to you than you could buy it from a dealer? A. I suppose so.

Q. You buy coal from the company? A. Yes.

Q. About what per ton do you pay? A. I think about \$2.70 a ton.

Q. Outside it is about \$3. A. Yes.

Q. Then you have no objection to the price of the coal? A. I say nothing about that.

Q. Did you ever give orders on the company to any store? A. No; I never gave an order in my life to anybody.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Would the coal you get be round or slack? A. It is just according to what they get.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. It is Springhill coal principally is it? A. Yes; but we get some of the other coals too.

Q. Do I understand you correctly when I say that the doctor will wait upon you the whole year for the fee you said. Suppose you were sick six months would he supply you with the necessary medicines, &c., for 45 cents a month? A. Yes; that is according to the sickness you have in the house in your family; if your wife has a baby you have to pay \$5 to him for that.

Q. Then you have to pay him \$5 extra? A. Yes.

Q. Supposing, for instance, you are sick or there is sickness in your family and it becomes necessary for him to attend all that time does he charge anything extra? A. He will attend for the fee.

Q. And no extra charge? A. No.

Q. Supposing there is no one sick in the family do you still pay the 45 cents? A. Yes; it is still paid.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Are the men generally satisfied as a rule to pay that 45 cents per month? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. You never heard any complaints? A. No.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Is there any member of your family of any material assistance to you, that is fit to work? A. Yes; I have three married and they are doing for themselves and there is one away now out in California working for himself; I have six at home now doing no work.

Q. Those I suppose are not fit to work? A. No.

Q. What is the earliest hour in the morning you have to go to work? A. I am generally down ten minutes or a quarter to four every morning, winter and summer.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What time in the evening do you generally leave? A. About three or four.

Q. Would it not be possible for you to go to work at six in the morning and knock off at six in the evening; what cause is there existing for your going so early in the morning? A. Well, in the summer time the days are hot, and the mornings are cooler to work in, and then another thing it is an advantage to the company for us to go out early for them to start their steam to do other work.

Q. Is that the mode and manner of working in the States too? A. Yes.

Q. It is just the same there? A. Yes; just the same.

Q. It is the rule the world over where puddling is done? A. Yes.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Are there many young boys working in the mill? A. Yes; a good many.

Q. What is the age of the youngest boy? A. The boys here are so small for their age that I cannot tell you. They have not got their growth the same as the boys in the country on a farm.

Q. Their growth is stunted? A. Yes; the work will do it. You will see a little stunted fellow fifteen that you think would not be twelve.

Q. Are there any of twelve there now? A. I cannot tell you; I do not know their ages.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How many years have these boys of 12 and 15 been working there? A. I do not know, but some of them are there now. May be some have only been there for a couple of months, others may be more, years.

Q. And some for four, five and six years? A. They have grown bigger now and I cannot tell you how long they have been there.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Has the growth of those boys been stunted from the work they are engaged in? A. Oh, no.

ARTHUR COZENER, keeper blast furnace, sworn and examined.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What hours do you work? A. Fourteen one shift and ten in the other. We will say twelve hours a shift.

Q. Do you receive the same rate of pay whether you work on the long shift or the short shift? A. It does not make any difference, the pay would go just the same.

Q. What is your monthly pay? A. I could not tell as I have not taken one since this furnace was on.

Q. What is your daily pay? A. \$2.10 a day.

Q. Do you get pretty constant employment? A. Yes.

Q. You can work substantially all the year round? A. Yes.

Q. Are there many men in the same employment as you? A. Yes.

Q. What wages are they getting? A. The same wages as I am getting.

Q. And they do the same kind of work? A. Yes; I did not take in your other questions as to pay—the men do not receive any of them so much as me, none of them.

Q. What would be a fair average of the earnings of the men at that same class of work? A. I cannot tell you about that; I can only tell you what I get.

GEORGE CAMERON, employé rolling mill, sworn and examined.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are you working as a laborer? A. I am not working at all since Monday.

Q. When you worked as a laborer what was your daily pay? A. \$1.

Q. How many hours a day did you work? A. Sometimes at twenty minutes and twenty-five minutes after six at night.

Q. Beginning at seven in the morning? A. Yes; sharp at seven.

Q. And you worked steady till twenty minutes after six—did you receive anything extra for that extra work? A. Not that I know of.

Q. Are you constantly employed the year round? A. No; only about five weeks in this place.

JOHN CHISHOLM, miner, sworn and examined.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. You have heard the testimony given by the last witness, Mr. McEachern? A. Yes.

Q. Within your knowledge is it substantially correct? A. Yes.

Q. Have you anything to add to that statement that would be of interest to the Commission? A. No.



By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Do you work by the day? A. Yes; I work by the day.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How much do you receive per day? A. \$1.19.

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any family? A. Yes.

Q. Can you support your family in comfort on the wages you receive, and save any money? A. Not on day's pay. By contract we make a little more than that; when we work by the ton we do better then.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you own any property of your own? A. No.

Q. Do you hire a tenement? A. No.

Q. You board out? A. Yes.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Is the timbering of the mine generally safe? A. Yes.

Q. Is the roof well protected? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever known any accident to happen from fallings? A. No, not from want of timbering or anything like that.

Q. When drawing material up the shaft, before it comes to the hoisting gear, how is it drawn up; by what means? A. By steam.

Q. And there is a travelling road up to the mouth of the shaft, by which the men come, is there? A. Yes.

Q. Are there any safety holes in the sides for men travelling up there. For instance, supposing a truck is coming up? A. It has cogs, and they have places to get off at the levels.

Q. Have any accidents happened there? A. Yes; one happened a year or two ago.

Q. Accidents are not very frequent are they? A. No.

Q. Supposing a man were coming along one of these travelling places, and a truck was coming, would there be any danger? A. Not now; there used to be at that time.

Q. How not now? A. They made a man hole in the way to get away, but before we would have to cross and get on the level, and that is how a man was killed; but that has been remedied since.

Q. And so there is no danger when a man is travelling in the dark? A. Yes.

Q. Is there not any means provided by which that might be prevented? A. Yes, you can go along the level in the dark, but there is nothing else.

Q. Could there not be a chain of lights provided? A. He can walk along the level in the dark.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Do you ever do any contract work? A. Yes.

Q. Supposing you had a hard place to work in at first, and then struck a lighter spot later on, something soft, does the same figure still go on—would they allow you to continue the work at the first figures? A. Yes; if the contract was hard at the first part of the month, and you did not do much, and if it turned soft at the end of the month, they would let you go on that month.

Q. Supposing it was hard the first two or three days, would they let you go on then? A. No; they would not let you go on for the month.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Is there any trouble in the company furnishing any timber that is necessary to timber up the mine and as much as you require—is there any delay in furnishing the timber? A. No; there is always plenty of timber.

Q. Is there anything you can give us in the way of information that has not been given us by the other gentlemen, that would be of benefit to the workingmen except as to increase of pay? A. No; I do not think there is anything further I can say.

ANGUS McEACHERN, miner, Londonderry mines, sworn and examined.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What do you mine? A. Iron ore.

Q. You are employed by the Londonderry Iron Company? A. Yes.

Q. How long have you been working in these mines? A. About 27 years.

Q. Did you begin here as a boy? A. Yes.

Q. About how many miners are employed—skilled miners I now refer to? A. Probably about 75.

Q. About how many other hands would be employed in the mines? A. I do not know exactly; I am not prepared to tell you.

Q. About how many? A. Probably about 150 or 200, I could not say exactly.

Q. Are there any boys employed? A. Yes; quite a number.

Q. What do the boys do principally? A. They principally help the men.

Q. Do they drive the horses? A. Men generally drive the horses.

Q. What would be the wages of these boys? A. They range all the way probably from \$15, to \$18 and \$20 a month, and so forth.

Q. You think none are under fifteen? A. I don't hardly think so; there might be one or two.

Q. Are the miners paid by the day or by the ton? A. Both ways, by the day and by the ton.

Q. The same classes of miners? A. Yes.

Q. When a miner is working by the day what wages does he receive? A. There are different rates of wages, \$1.28 and \$1.19.

Q. Is that because of length of service or skill of the miner that this difference is made? A. I expect it is according to the skill of the miner.

Q. How many hours a day do they work? A. Nine hours.

Q. Is it all day work or do they have night hands? A. There is day work and night work both.

Q. And each gang works nine hours? A. Yes.

Q. When the men work by the ton how much do they receive per ton? A. It varies; there are hardly two men getting the same price; there is so much difference in the quality of the ore that they generally always get different prices according to the quality of the ore they work.

Q. About what do you think would be a fair average day's earnings for the men who work by the ton? A. The men working by the ton as a general thing do pretty fair. I suppose they average about \$1.50 a day anyway.

Q. Do you work pretty constant the year round? A. Yes.

Q. You lose no time except you desire to do so or because of sickness? A. No; without it is very seldom we need never lose time.

Q. Is there ever any Sunday work? A. No; not now, except the pumps and that has to be done.

Q. Do the men working on the night shift receive the rate of wages as those who work in the day? A. Yes; the same rate of wages exactly.

Q. Does the company own any houses at the mines? A. Yes.

Q. What is the rent generally paid for these houses per month? A. The men pay all the way from \$2.50 to \$4 a month.

Q. Are your taxes the same there as down here? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know what those boys of from 15 to 18 years of age receive per month? A. They receive all the way from 45 to 75 cents per day.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Do these boys have to pay 45 cents to the doctor, all through? A. Yes.

Q. Are you sure it is not a lower rate? A. I do not think there is any difference in the rate. I think everybody in the employment pays the doctor.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. And the whole of the employés, no matter what their ages, pay forty-five cents a month or whatever the amount is? A. Yes; that is the rule.

Q. But do the boys pay the same rate as the men? A. I think they do.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Is it a slope or a shaft you work in or is it both? A. Both.

Q. A slope first and a shaft afterwards? A. Yes.

Q. Is it well ventilated? A. Yes; it is well ventilated.

Q. What means are taken to ventilate it—by a fan? A. No; by air courses you know.

Q. How many shafts are there? There are two main shafts. Our mine is well ventilated, it is drafty all through. All the workings are pretty well ventilated.

Q. Has there been any accident happen through explosion? A. No; not from explosion in this mine.

Q. Do they use safety lamps there? A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Is the work all on the one level? A. No; there are a great many different levels.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Do these places need timbering? A. Yes.

Q. What quality of wood do you employ in timbering? A. Most all sorts of soft wood; we don't use any hard woods.

Q. Do the men working those places have to timber them themselves? A. Those that are capable of doing so timber for themselves and those that are not accustomed to timber the company does the timbering for them.

Q. Are the men who timber for themselves paid anything extra for doing so? A. Not very much.

Q. Has there ever been an accident from not being timbered properly? A. No; I do not think so; not in my time.

Q. Do the men come up in the same hoisting apparatus as the material? A. Yes; the men all come to the engine house for dinner at noon every day, and we ride up in the cage and go back again at one o'clock.

Q. How many men are allowed to enter the cage at once? A. Seven.

Q. Is there any person detailed to see that no more enter? A. Yes; that is all that is allowed to go in the cage; seven men at a time.

Q. You have not a copy of the regulations which govern these things? A. Yes; and there is a copy of the rules and regulations of the mines in the office.

Q. Are the officers of the company supplied with them also? A. I expect so.

Q. The miners have access to them as well have they? A. I do not know that the miners have any of them.

Q. Are they generally acquainted with the rules? A. I don't suppose they are all, although some are, some of those that are experienced in the business.

Q. If they wish to can they become acquainted with them? A. Yes.

Q. In case of accident to a man in the mine does he receive any reward or remuneration from the company? A. No; without it is some attendance.

Q. There is no fund provided for it? A. Nothing, only the club that the miners have; it is called an accident fund.

Q. What do you pay into it? A. It is only small; we pay 10 cents a month towards it.



Q. The owners of the mine do not pay anything towards it? A. I do not think; only the workingmen; they are the only ones that contribute towards it.

Q. That is the miners? A. Yes.

Q. Has the manager ever been approached on the subject of giving assistance towards this fund? A. Not as I know of.

Q. What did you say was the age of the youngest boy employed in the mine? A. I am hardly able to tell you the age of the youngest, I am sure.

Q. There is no law preventing a boy of any age from entering the mine? A. There has not been.

Q. No regulation at all? A. No.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. How often does the night and day gangs change places? A. Every week.

A. M. JOHNSTON, carpenter, sworn and examined.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Did you hear the testimony of the last witness? A. I did.

Q. You are a carpenter? Q. Yes.

Q. Do you approve generally of the testimony given by that gentleman (Mr. McLeod)? A. I do.

Q. Have you anything to add to it which will be of benefit to the Commission? A. No; I do not think I have.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you own a property of your own? A. Not here.

Q. Have you a family? A. Not here.

Q. You board? A. Yes.

Q. What do you pay per week for your board? A. \$3 a week.

Q. Is board about the same here as it is in other towns that you have boarded? A. No; it is a little more here.

Q. How do the wages stand here compared with other places—I am now speaking of course relative to your trade? A. Rather smaller here.

Q. Do you work ten hours a day here or more? A. Ten hours a day.

Q. Did you serve your time at the carpentry business? A. I did.

Q. Did you serve your time in this country? A. I did.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What do you think would be the fair average earnings of the carpenters here? A. Do you mean what would be fair wages?

Q. No; what is the fair average of what they do earn? A. They will average about \$1.28 or \$1.30 a day.

Q. How constantly are you employed throughout the year? A. Every day there is work—that is there is work except on stormy days and at times they do not have inside work for all the time during stormy weather.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. You are paid monthly too? A. Yes.

Q. Do you comply with the rules appertaining to the doctor as well? A. All I hear about it is that it is stopped out of my pay.

Q. You were not a party to the agreement? A. I was never asked about it.

Q. They never gave you any notification of it until you found it stopped on pay day? A. I found it stopped out of my pay on pay day.

Q. Did you then say anything about it? A. No; because I knew it was the custom.

Q. Do you pay any taxes? A. No; not in this town.

Q. Is there anything you could give the Commission in the way of information that would be of importance to mechanics either in your own or any other concern that you might heretofore have worked in? A. No; I do not know as I could give you any such information.

Q. Do you think it would be beneficial to have fortnightly or weekly pays instead of monthly pays as now? A. Well, I do not know, that is a disputed question; some would like to be paid weekly and some fortnightly and others by the month.

Q. We are asking you for your opinion and you of course only speak here for yourself and not for the others? A. It makes no difference to me individually whether I get it weekly or monthly.

Q. You have no fault to find with the manner in which you are paid? A. I consider monthly as good as weekly; it is to me.

Q. Is there anything you object to in the working of the concern, are you well satisfied with the work you are employed at? A. Yes; with the work but not with the wages paid me.

WILLIAM JONES, forge roller, sworn and examined:

By Mr. FREED:

Q. Do you work alternate shifts, day and night? A. I work all by day.

Q. How many hours a day? A. We start about half-past five in the morning and get through about four or half-past four.

Q. You have time for breakfast and dinner from those hours? A. After runs. We have a spell between the runs.

Q. Can you take whatever you need to eat between these spells? A. Yes.

Q. How many heats a day do you have as a rule? A. Six when we can get them.

Q. Are you paid by the day or by the ton? A. By the ton.

Q. How much per ton do you get? A. Seventeen cents.

Q. Is that all for yourself? A. Yes.

Q. What would be a fair average day's earnings? A. That depends upon the tonnage that comes out of the mill; sometimes not so much as others.

Q. Take one day with another, what do you think would be a fair average day's earnings? A. I suppose about \$2.75.

Q. Are you employed the year round? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Are you a married man? A. No.

Q. You pay board? A. Yes.

Q. What do you pay a week for your board? A. \$3.50 a week.

Q. That includes washing, &c.? A. Yes.

Q. Do you pay any taxes? A. Yes.

Q. What taxes do you pay? A. Poor rate, county tax, school tax.

Q. Did you ever work in any other place besides this? A. Yes.

Q. Where? A. Portland, Maine. I also worked in Halifax.

Q. Is there any difference in the rates of wages or the price per ton in this place as compared with the other places you have worked at? A. Trade has altered so much now from what it was those times that I could not tell you exactly what the differences are.

Q. Do you pay this forty cents towards the doctor? A. Yes.

Q. Is there any objection to it? A. I think it is very good as far as my opinion is concerned; if it did not cost forty cents a month it would cost more other ways.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you know what wages a bar roller earns? A. I could not say.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Do you know if the doctor receives this 40 cents a month? A. Yes; I think he does.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. The men generally speaking are satisfied with that arrangement? A. So far as I know.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. In rolling iron how many constitutes a gang? A. There is about 8 or 9 in our mill altogether.

Q. Do they all work on it? A. At different parts, rolling and roughing.

Q. You work in conjunction with other men? A. Yes.

Q. In working by the ton the amount derived from that ton is divided among the men working at it? A. They have nothing to do with my tonnage; some of the others working are paid by the day and some by the ton and other men are paid individually.

Q. You work in conjunction with other men in rolling that iron? A. Yes.

Q. You do not know the wages of the other men working with you? A. Rolling is seventeen cents a ton; roughing eleven cents; catching on the roughing ten cents and catching on the finish eight cents.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. That completes the bloom? A. That is as far as the men running the tonnage. Then there is the boy that hooks up on the roughing, he gets 73 cents and on the finishing 68 cents and the boys that drag it get \$1.05 or \$1.03 per day.

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JOHN BUTLER, heater, sworn and examined.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. You work how many hours a day? A. From ten to fourteen.

Q. According to the shift you are in? A. It is not according to the shift, but according to the heats, the run of heats.

Q. How are you paid? A. We are paid by the ton.

Q. How much a ton do the heaters get? A. 55 cents here.

Q. What would you consider to be a fair average day's wages? A. About \$3.50. From \$3.25 to \$4.50. That is what we ought to but we don't earn that. We earn about \$2.75.

Q. Do you think you average that the year round? A. Hardly, we average about \$2.65 the year round.

Q. That all goes to yourself? A. Yes; all to ourselves.

Q. Have you a family? A. Yes.

Q. Do you rent a house or do you own one? A. I rent one.

Q. How much rent do you pay? A. \$3.50; I have paid as high as \$7.

Q. How many rooms do you get for \$3.50? A. Five.

Q. Cannot you save some money out of the wages you earn? A. I cannot; I have not saved any. It is as much as I can do to pay my debts.

Q. Did you ever give orders on the company to any of the stores? A. No.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. You say you pay \$3.50 a month rent and that you have five rooms, do you pay any taxes? A. Yes; I pay school tax \$1; \$1 for road money and fifty cents for poor rates.

Q. Do you know any person who has a house or a number of houses built on the company's lands? A. I know of some that have houses on the company's lands.



Q. Do you know about what rent they pay? A. No; I do not. I think in general it is about the same as any other house, but it is according to the house; if the house is pretty good it is more and if not so good it is less—according to the house.

Q. Have you worked in any other city in this line of business? A. Yes; I have in several.

Q. Where? A. In St. John, before I came here.

Q. How long did you work in St. John, N. B.? A. This last time a little over a year.

Q. In whose employ were you? A. At the rolling mill at the Three Mile House was it? A. Yes.

Q. You have a family, I presume? A. Yes.

Q. What difference would there be in the cost of living in St. John and in Londonderry? A. Everything is a great deal cheaper than here in a general way.

Q. Was house rent cheaper there than here? A. There is not much difference in the rent; there was a little according to the kind of house, but everything else was cheaper in reference to having to keep a family, tea, sugar, molasses and everything that way was cheaper.

Q. Would there be a difference in the price paid for the work done there and that paid here? A. Yes; that is per ton.

Q. What was the difference? A. The price there was seventy cents.

Q. What you get 55 cents for here? A. Yes.

Q. That is a difference of fifteen cents per ton? A. Yes.

Q. Can you get out more tons of iron per week here than there? A. Not at present; we cannot.

Q. Have you any objection or any fault to find with the general management of the concern or any suggestions you can make that would be of benefit to the men working in the employ of this company? A. In some ways I suppose it could be a little better.

Q. In what way could there be an improvement? A. I do not know that they could do a great deal more at present than what they are, it don't lay altogether to the company it lays to the men there; they can't get more work, they don't turn out lately as much work as they have and that is the reason they don't get more wages.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Is that owing to the scarcity of men? A. Men seem to be plenty all round.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Can you give any cause for not getting out more work? A. Well, I think the workings, the furnace, &c., and the rolls are not or do not seem to be in as good order as they were some time ago.

Q. Is there an inspector who comes around and sees as to whether the machinery is in good order or not? A. Yes.

Q. Is he appointed by the Government? A. There are two different parties. I think one is appointed by the Government and the other by the company, and they look after boilers, &c.

Q. The boiler inspector is a Government inspector, he has only to visit once a year or so? A. I think it is every three or four months.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you pay forty cents a month towards the doctor? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any objections to paying it? A. No; I have not.

Q. You do not think it is too much to charge to each man? A. No; I do not think so.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you think the boys pay the same rate as the men? A. They used not to. I do not know how it is now. I think there is five or ten cents difference.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. If there should be a vacancy occur through ill-health, or otherwise, are the men consulted as to whether it is advisable to get another doctor and what doctor? A. They can please themselves. If they are not satisfied with the doctor they have they can get another at their expense.

Q. Supposing it was necessary to have a consultation in some critical case, would the company bear the expense of bringing another doctor? A. That is more than I can tell you.

Q. Does the doctor receive the entire sum of forty cents from each man or whatever it is he gets, does he receive that individually? A. That is what he is paid as I know of.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. In the case of a vacancy do not the men recommend some person for it—do they ever nominate a party to fill it? A. I do not know. I do not know that they demand any one in particular. I think it is the doctor with the best recommendations they try to get here or something that way.

ROBERT STEVENSON, timber man, sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Your duty is to timber up the mine as the miners proceed? A. That is the duty of the other timber men; my duty is to go round and fix up in the shafts, galleries, and so on.

Q. How long have you been in that business? A. Six years in this place, here.

Q. Did you work at the same business in any other place? A. Yes; in the State of Maryland, and a little in the State of Pennsylvania.

Q. What are your wages? A. \$1.30 a day.

Q. What did you receive in the United States? A. \$3 a day.

Q. Is it all day's work? A. Yes.

Q. How long do you work per day? A. Nine hours, the same as the miners.

Q. Have you a family? A. Yes.

Q. Do you own a house of your own? A. No.

Q. Do you rent a tenement? A. I live in one of the company's houses.

Q. What do you pay per month? A. \$2.50.

Q. How many rooms have you? A. Four; well, five with the back kitchen.

Q. Do you pay any taxes? A. Yes.

Q. About what is your taxes? A. 56 cents poor and county rates, \$1 for school tax, and \$1 for road money.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Did you say that your duty was to go around and fix the cage ropes? A. No; I have nothing to do with the cage ropes.

Q. Is there an official appointed to do that? A. Yes.

Q. In case of accident to whom does he report? A. To the manager, I suppose.

Q. No other? A. No; not as I could say of; I think he reports directly to the manager.

Q. Do you know of any accidents happening from the ropes breaking? A. Nothing lately.

Q. There have been accidents? A. There was one some years ago.

Q. What kind of ropes are generally employed? A. Steel ropes, I think.

Q. Do you know if they are manufactured in this country or not? A. I could not answer that.

Q. I suppose there is an inspector who pays visits to the mine? A. He comes sometimes.

Q. Does the sub-inspector come when he does not? A. I could not tell you that; it is seldom we see one there, he might be there but we would not know him.

Q. In case of an accident would he not likely turn up then? A. Sometimes; after a long time.

Q. Not immediately afterwards? A. No.

Q. Is there any rule regulating the use of dynamite? A. They have rules in the office, I think.

Q. Is there a man specially employed to look after the dynamite and who has to use it in case it is required to be used? A. There is a gentleman in the office who has to give it out in the morning when there is any call for it.

Q. Do miners have to pay for their own lamps? A. Yes; they pay for their own lamps.

Q. And the dynamite also? A. Those that work by contract have to and those that work by the day the company find them.

Q. Tell me what kind of drinking water is found around these mines? A. Some places pretty good, some places pretty bad.

Q. I suppose it is the common draw well that is used? A. Yes.

Q. I suppose there are no pumps around? A. No.

Q. It is the common bucket? A. Sometimes a common flour barrel and you dip out of that, the spring comes in at the bottom.

Q. Is there any report made as regards the quality of that water: is there any health warden to look after it and see that it is fit for drinking purposes? A. I do not know.

Q. Does the water become bad during the summer at times? A. Sometimes, but it all depends upon the weather we have.

Q. Are there plenty of those wells around? A. Yes, there are a good many around here.

Q. Are they dug by the people or by the company? A. Some of them by the people and some the company have paid for, I think.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Are the houses owned by the company warm and comfortable in winter? Some of the houses are not.

Q. How much coal will a family use in a winter in one of these houses? A. I could not say, I use 20 or 30 cwt. a month.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. What do you pay for coal a ton? A. Somewhere about \$3 a ton.

Q. Where does it generally come from? A. From the mines we get it. I could not say from where they get it, but some comes from Springhill.

Q. Do you know if any reduction is made in favor of the men? A. I could not tell whether outsiders get it at the same rate as the employes or not.

Q. They generally get the timber from the country? A. I think most of it comes from Greenville.

Q. You live in a company's house? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any land attached to it? A. No.

Q. The company will allow people to build upon their land sometimes, I suppose? A. Yes; I think so sometimes.

Q. They generally charge an extra ground rent? A. That I could not tell you about.

Q. In certain cases do the company assist people to erect cottages for themselves? A. I do not know as to that.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Have you anything you desire to add to the testimony you have given? A. Nothing as I know of, only I would like to see a little more wages paid, that is all.



By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. You have no general fault to find with the company outside of the wages part of it? A. No.

Q. Do you think the manner of payment, namely, once a month, is all right?

A. I do not know any other would make any great difference.

Q. Have you any direct objections to that part of it? A. No; not at all.

Q. You said you worked in Pennsylvania and other places? A. Yes.

Q. How did they pay down there? A. Monthly.

Q. Did they keep a week pay back. Relate to us how they did pay down there? A. They generally kept a week's back; they ran to the seventh of the month and if that was on a Sunday you got paid on the eighth.

Q. Have you heard any dissatisfaction expressed amongst the men as regards the way it is done here? A. I have heard that in every mine I have been connected with; it is natural to hear some grumbling, anyway.

MURDOCK GILLIS, ore filler, sworn and examined.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. I work nine hours in the day and twelve at night; it is week about at night work.

Q. Are you paid by the day? A. Yes.

Q. What is your daily wage? A. \$1.12.

Q. Do the other men receive about the same? A. There are different pays; the men filling ore get \$1.12, the chargers \$1.20, the coke men \$1.10 and the picker \$1.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Are you a married man? A. No.

Q. Do you pay board? A. Yes.

Q. About what does it cost for board here? A. \$3 a week.

Q. Have you ever worked at this same business in any other rolling mill? A. No.

Q. Do you know any person who has a house on land belonging to the company? A. No.

Q. Do you pay 40 or 45 cents a month to the doctor? A. 40 cents is what I pay.

Q. Have you any objections to that payment? A. No; I have not.

Q. Do you pay any taxes? A. Yes; I pay school tax and county and poor rates and road money.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How is that levied on you? Is it on your income? A. I do not know how it is.

Q. What amounts do you pay for the various taxes? A. I pay \$1 for school taxes, \$1 road money and sixty-six cents poor rate and county rates.

Q. You do not know how they fix these taxes—I mean on men not householders? A. No; I do not know.

JAMES COCKELL, laborer at furnace, sworn and examined.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Have you been employed here long in that capacity? A. Nearly six years.

Q. Are you paid by the day or by the month? A. By the shift.

Q. What are your daily earnings? A. \$1.15.

Q. Are there many men employed at that work? A. Three.

Q. Do they receive the same rate of pay? A. No; the slagget gets five cents more than me.

Q. And the other man, what does he get? That is the keeper? A. I do not know exactly.

Q. You work the same hours as the other men? A. Yes; twelve hours a shift.

Q. It averages that? A. Yes.

Q. Do you give orders to any store on the company? A. No; never.

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. How many rooms are there in your house? A. Eight; four up and four down.

Q. How much rent do you pay for such a house? A. \$4 now; I used to pay more.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Is there any land attached to your house? A. Just a little wee bit; not much to speak of.

Q. Do you pay any rent for that? A. No.

Q. Do you know any person who pays rent for land attached to their houses? A. I do not.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Does the house belong to you? A. No.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Is the house built on the company's land? A. No; it is not.

Q. You own the land yourself? A. No; I don't own any land; I rent.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Is there any difference in the rent of the houses owned by the company and those not owned by the company? A. Not as I am aware; it is according to what they are worth they are rented at.

Q. You have no particular advantage in renting a house from the company? A. Not as I am aware of.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you find any objections with an employé not renting a house from the company? A. No; I do not think it.

Q. Do they give preference of employment to men who have houses rented from the company? A. No, I do not think they make any difference about that at all.

Q. Did you ever work in any other rolling mill or at puddling before? A. No.

Q. You have always worked in this one? A. I have worked here ever since I have been here in this country; I have not been here six years yet.

Q. Did you work at the same business at home in the old country? A. No; I did not.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Do you think it would be a benefit to the men to be paid fortnightly instead of monthly? A. I do.

Q. Do you know if any of the employés have asked to have their wages paid more frequently? A. I do not know that anything has been said about that.

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H. J. INGRAM, superintendent, rolling mill, sworn and examined.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How long have you held that position? A. Since the first of August last.

Q. About how many men are now employed in the rolling mill? A. About two hundred; it varies, sometimes more and sometimes less.

Q. Besides puddlers, heaters, rollers and laborers, what other class of workmen is employed under you? A. None.

Q. What would you consider the fair, actual average earnings per day of the puddlers? A. From \$2.60 to \$3 a day.

Q. According to a scale in force in the mine or according to what rate? A. According to the heats or the weight taken out of the furnace.

Q. Do these heats depend upon the condition of the iron or is it on the machinery or skill of the workmen? A. Sometimes the iron has a little to do with it.

Q. What would you consider the average earnings of the heaters? A. \$2.60 to \$3 a day.

Q. What would you consider the fair average earnings of the rollers? That is the men on the finishing trains? A. About \$4 to \$5 a day.

Q. Are they two-heat or three-heat rolls? A. Three-heat rolls.

Q. And laborers what do they earn? A. \$1.04.

Q. About how many hours, take one day with another, do they work on the day shift? A. The laborers?

Q. Yes; take the whole of the hands employed in the rolling mill? A. About from 10 to 12 hours a day.

Q. And on the night shift? A. We have no night shift running at present.

Q. And none since you took charge of the mill? A. No.

Q. How long has the mill been shut down since you assumed charge of it? A. It has not been shut down—we have run steady.

Q. Have all the men employed been in a position to put in full time if they were well and desired to do so? A. Yes.

Q. What is the condition of the rolls in the mill? A. The condition of the rolls is that they are all in good order.

Q. Do you employ many boys in your department? A. Some few, perhaps, say six or somewhere about that—from six to eight.

Q. What do you think would be the ages of the boys? A. Well, I should say from 10 up to 15.

Q. What do you employ a boy aged ten years at? A. Just straightening the rods at the small mill.

Q. Is it laborious work? A. No.

Q. Does it occupy their attention all the day long? A. No.

Q. If a boy were a little inattentive would he be liable to meet with an accident at that work? A. Yes; there is some.

Q. Do you think that a boy of ten can be expected to concentrate his attention to work for ten hours? A. They don't work that.

Q. How long are they required to give their attention to the work? A. About one hour at a time and perhaps not quite that much.

Q. Have accidents occurred to these young boys? A. No.

Q. Would there be any great additional clerical labor incurred in preparing the pay lists so that the men could be paid fortnightly or semi-monthly? A. I do not think there would.

Q. Do you know what the custom is in the rolling mills generally throughout the United States as to the periods of payment? A. Monthly and two weeks; in some places every week.

Q. Do you think that the benefit accruing to the men from being paid fortnightly would be greater than the trouble and labor to the company of preparing the lists fortnightly? A. No; I do not see any difference there.

Q. Have the men ever expressed any desire to you to be paid more frequently? A. No.

Q. If the men were paid more frequently would it greatly obviate the necessity on their part of giving orders on the company to the storekeepers? A. I do not know of any such transactions myself.

Q. They have not come under your notice? A. No.



By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do heaters, puddlers and rollers live long; what is the average age of the men working at it; is it generally injurious to their health? A. I do not know that it is.

Q. You think it is just as healthy as the ordinary trades? A. I have found as old men working at puddling all their lives as in any other branch of business.

Q. You have been foreman in other shops? A. Yes.

Q. In the States or in the old country? A. In the Iron and Steel Company's works at Troy.

Q. How do wages there compare with those paid here? A. I think we pay a little higher here than there.

Q. Are the hours of labor any longer there than here? A. No; they are about the same.

Q. I am not speaking particularly now about that place, but as to any concern you may know of? A. I know of Troy and of Philadelphia, and they are about the same.

Q. The hands go to work at four in the morning? A. This is about the usual time for mill men.

Q. Are the general habits of the men as steady and sober as in any other place you have been? A. Yes; taking the men here I think they are steadier than any others I have seen yet; that is the men of the place, the residents.

Q. Do you not think it would be a benefit to the men if they were paid fortnightly instead of monthly? A. I do not know that it would, still I would not say.

Q. Would you have any objections to answering any question any of these gentlemen around the room would put to you through members of the Commission? A. No.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. If one of the gang of rollers were away from home would that interfere with the rolling? A. Yes.

Q. How would it interfere? A. We have no spare men with the particular training of rolling, and the roll would have to stand idle.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Do you know if any of the men were engaged by contract on the other side and brought over here to work? A. There have been some puddlers brought over.

Q. Who have been engaged on the other side? A. I do not know about that; they were brought over because we were short of men to go on with that work.

Q. Is there any other puddling mill in the Dominion? A. I do not know of any other.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Were the rollers in the mill in good condition four weeks ago? A. They were in the same condition as they are to-day, with the exception that we dressed up one pair of strand rollers.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Are your men, taking them on the whole, contented? A. For anything I know.

Q. You never heard any complaints? A. I have heard no complaints, outside of sometimes the coal is a little bad, but we do our best to remedy it.

Q. If any of the men wanted to see you, would you see him and treat him in an amicable manner? A. I have always done that.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. If any difficulty arose between the manager and the men, would you consent to those difficulties being settled by arbitration? A. Yes.

Q. You would prefer them being settled by arbitration in preference to any other manner? A. I would.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Have you any objection to employing persons who have at any time or would at the time belong to a labor organization? A. It does not matter to me who he is or what he belongs to.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are you a practical roller yourself? A. I am not a roller.

Q. But you have a practical knowledge of the business you superintend; of the general work; you understand rolling? A. Well, I have of the general work and I understand rolling some, but not practically.

Q. Would a puddler at Troy receive as much as here? A. That I could not answer.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. How many are there working between 10 and 15 years of age? A. Between six and eight.

Q. Do you know if they can read and write or if they could do so when they went there? A. No; I do not; I could not say.

J. W. MORRISON, journalist, sworn and examined.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. You are a citizen here? A. Yes.

Q. Do you own any property? A. No.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. You heard the testimony given by the rollers? A. Yes.

Q. I understand that you have something new to add to that testimony? A. The rollers they were employed on are not those I was employed on; they are on the puddling mill; I was finishing the iron—a different mill altogether. It was in the same mill but on a different train of rollers.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What does the roller on the bar mill receive? A. On the mill I was working on I received \$2.60 per ton, and then I paid all the help out of that.

Q. How many tons would be a fair day's work? A. Well, a fair average with the train and furnace and things we have there is about 5 tons at the present time.

Q. How many men would constitute a gang at one set of rolls? A. It would depend considerably on the orders you were working, but about 10 or 11 men would constitute a gang. Some of those men would not be included in that pay per ton.

Q. How much would the roller get? A. Well, from about four to five dollars a day.

Q. What would be the man next to him? A. The heater.

Q. What would the heater get? A. From \$3.50 to \$4.

Q. And next to him? A. The roughers.

Q. What would they receive? A. About \$1.50 each—there would be two of them.

Q. And next to the roughers? A. The catcher.

Q. What would he earn? A. He would earn about \$1.10 or \$1.20 I suppose.

Q. And after the catcher? A. Would be the plate hands; they are mostly all boys. They would get from 65 to 90 cents, but some have at times, in certain months, more than that.

Q. Any others? A. There would be the helper on the furnace, and he would make about \$1.30 a day or \$1.35 a day.

Q. That would constitute the whole gang? A. Yes; that is all.

Q. How many hours a day would be the average day's work? A. It should be about 10 hours, but we were there from 10, 12, 14 and to 16 hours a day.

Q. Why were you there working those long hours? A. We were working extra time, and we had nothing there fit to work with, and to do the work to be done we had to work those extra hours.

Q. Was that because the machinery was out of repair? A. Yes.

Q. Is it any better now do you know? A. I could not say as to how it is now, but when I left they were repairing it, and since I left they repaired it, but before I left it was in a very bad shape, that I know.

Q. Do you know whether the boys employed pay the same as the men to the doctor? A. No; they pay half rate—twenty cents a month.

Q. What is the amount they pay per month? A. It is 45 cents for the men per month. The men do not take notice of the amount they pay, but I know it is forty-five cents and not forty as some said, and the boys pay 20 cents.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Do you know if there is any blacklisting in this employment? A. I could not say. We heard the testimony of Mr. Muir this afternoon, but I could not say what they do; I can only give my opinion as appearances of things would indicate what they do; that is the only information that I can give that that is the indications there.

Q. You do not know of any? A. I do not know, because, certainly, if there was such a thing they would not let me know, or any other man.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Did you leave the mill of your own free will? A. I did.

Q. Did you try to get back again? A. Here was about the way I left: things were in a pretty bad shape, and finding it impossible to work there, and finding there was no improvement made and considerable grumbling about no work being done, and as that was not satisfactory to me so far as my work was concerned, as they could not grumble at me, for I had it from the manager's own mouth that the work was satisfactory to the dealers, and was better finished than before with the machinery, so I left.

Q. Have you any objection to telling us why you were not taken back? A. I went to the mill manager and told him I had heard that he was grumbling during the day as to the iron not being right, and I told him it was as good as I could do with the rollers that were there, and he said they were all right, and then I told him I could not, with the rollers there, turn out the work he expected; a promise was made to give me better, but it was not kept, and I left work, saying I would work no more with the things there. A committee of the men then went to the general manager to see if they could not rectify things there and give me back the work. He said he was perfectly willing for me to go back to work; this was on the Saturday, so on the Monday morning I was going back to work when I received a notice from the mill manager stating that he had heard I was going out to work on Monday morning, and for me not to come, as nothing was to be done till further arrangements were made. I went out to see him on the Sunday, but he was not at home, and consequently I had to go without seeing him. On the Monday morning I went down to him, and he said he had no word from the general manager to put me on again, and he said he would not put me on until he had word. I was in the mill, and the men asked me why I was not to work, and I told them I had received this notice. They thought it was very strange, as they claimed they had seen the manager and they had insisted on me being replaced, and that if not there would be trouble. I don't know how far that is true; I don't know what they told the manager when they went to see him; I heard he wanted to see me personally. I went to see him, and he told me distinctly I should never have another day's work while he was the manager of the place; and I asked the reason, and he said because the



men had made a threat to him. I do not know whether that is the real cause of the trouble or not, but I thought it rather mean and paltry.

Q. Are you one of the parties who lost six weeks' pay? A. Yes.

J. TURNER, puddler, sworn and examined.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Did you hear the testimony given by the various puddlers this afternoon?  
A. I heard the testimony given by the various puddlers this afternoon.

Q. Do you think it was about correct? A. I do not know whether some of it was correct or not. I heard Brother Gough say he had worked in England for seven shillings, in 1873, when in the United States, it was \$5 a ton; and I heard him mention as to the 13s. 6d., but in the old country you have to pay your own helper, but you have not to give him one-third; you can get one there for 3s. a day.

Q. Were the usual terms 1s. in the pound and a shilling extra? A. Yes.

Q. So your pay depends wholly on the price of the iron? A. Yes.

Q. The extra shilling had not been taken from the pay when you worked there?  
A. No. There was some 7s. 6d. given to the helpers for getting out the heats every fortnight.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you own your own house in this town? A. I have a family, but they are not here at present. I have a house here built on the company's land.

Q. What rent do you pay? A. \$5 a year ground rent. It is 66 by 99; it is upon the hill there.

Q. Do you think that a heavy rent? A. I do.

Q. Do you know any person paying higher or less? A. I know those who pay more; no less.

Q. What objections have you to paying \$5 rent for a piece of land 66 by 99?  
A. I think it is too much money.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you know what that lot would sell for? A. It may sell for \$15.

Q. Do you think that would be a fair price? A. I think from \$10 to \$12 would be a fair price for the piece of land I built on.

Q. Do you know if the company sold any land, or do they make it a practice to sell land? A. I do not believe they can sell any, or if they can, they never do.

Q. Do they collect it yearly or half yearly? A. Half yearly.

Q. Do you pay any taxes? A. Yes.

Q. What are your taxes? A. School tax, \$2.50. I have not seen what the road tax is, and can't tell; it is sure to come along, and I think it is in the house now.

Q. Do you board out? A. Yes.

Q. You used to board out in the old country, I presume? A. I boarded out in the old country myself.

Q. About what would it cost to live in the old country? A. I used to board at a public house, and it is hard to tell what it would cost, as all was taken in.

Q. I mean for legitimate expenses and not luxuries? A. It used all to come in on the one bill, and was about \$5 or \$6 a week.

Q. What would you estimate the board to be? A. About \$3.25.

Q. Is there anything you wish to add to the testimony of the gentlemen given to-day that would advance the cause of labor, the class of people working around here? A. I do not know, except as to the general statement of them as to the doctor, I think I could enlighten them a little on that.

Q. Let us hear about the doctor? A. In Doctor Kerr's time, the first doctor when I came ten or eleven years ago, every man had to pay 25 cents, that was for attending to a single person, then it came to fifty cents for the whole family except

consultations or lying-in and that you have to pay for. There was a little dispute between the general manager and the doctor and he had to go, whether the men were willing or not and he went, and then it was got up for another doctor to come here and they got Doctor McDonald and he came and we paid fifty cents. I heard a great many statements made here to day that the doctor found all the medicines. Now, in the summer time the men here in the mill lose a great deal of time through sickness, cramp, and cholera, and all these things, and cannot work all through the summer sometimes and I have seen men run a bill in the drug store for medicines of four and five dollars and that without liquor—only for medicines and stuff, still if I went to the doctor he would give me medicines, but I had always to pay for it.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Do you think that if there was general dissatisfaction amongst the men with regards to the doctor the manager would make a change? A. I believe the manager would change the doctor right away if the men could show any charge against him, but I think he is well liked; I never heard any one express a different opinion.

Q. Virtually it is their own choice? A. In that way, I suppose it is left to their own choice and I believe it is a good choice too.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. In building on this land do you get a lease for any length of time? A. For six months and if they tell you you have to get off you have to get before.

Q. What do you do with your property? A. Take it away. If they wish to order you off at the end of the six months—I do not say they do it—but they could order you off and you would have to go.

Q. And would they not allow you any compensation for building this house? A. I do not say they would do it nor have I seen them do it, but I know they hold the power.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. You are a party to the arrangement? A. They will show you a piece of land and you can build a house on to it and occupy it as they choose.

ELISHA PAUL, coal cutter, Springhill mines, sworn and examined.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. What particular branch of the coal industry do you work at? A. Coal cutting.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How long have you been employed in the mine that is since you first commenced to cut coal in this mine? A. About eleven years.

Q. About what age were you when you first started cutting coal? A. I was about 19 years of age.

Q. About what did you receive when you first commenced this business and at what branch of it were you at? A. When I first commenced this business I was working in the pit as a boy trapper, that is when I first commenced in the mine.

Q. What do you mean by trapper? A. Attending a door, opening and shutting the door after the horses got through.

Q. What does a boy usually receive for such work as that? A. Forty-five cents.

Q. A day? A. Yes.

Q. How long does he be trapping before he receives an advance to other work? A. It is according to whether he is smart or not, or whether he is a big boy or not, or a small boy.

Q. Give the Commission the different grades of the boys' work and how they proceed from one to another? A. If he is a pretty smart boy he would get a raise in perhaps three or four months after he got into the pit and he would get a drive.

Q. What did you receive when driving? A. I can't state what they would receive now but what I received when I was driving was eighty cents.

Q. A day? A. Yes.

Q. What do you think the boys receive now? A. They get according to their size, from sixty to eighty cents, that is the drivers.

Q. Then what is the next stage? A. The next stage is breaking.

Q. What does that mean? A. Holding on the incline or counterbalance, checking it, gauging the speed of it, starting it and stopping it.

Q. About what pay do they get for that? A. When I was at it I got eighty cents, no more than for driving.

Q. What is the next stage? A. Cage runner.

Q. Is that the boxes? A. No; it is on this balance that I spoke of, it is putting on full ones and taking off empty ones.

Q. What did you receive for that? A. \$1 a day.

Q. After you got to that stage, how long would it be till a smart active fellow was able to go that far? A. A boy is not able to run a cage under sixteen unless he was a very large boy of his age.

Q. Say he was 18, supposing he went there at 14 or 15 years of age how long would it be before he would be capable of taking charge of a cage? A. He might not be any more than three months if he went in a big boy but if a small boy he might take two or three years to get that far.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Would they work the same number of hours every day in all these jobs? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What would be the next stage? A. Loading.

Q. That is the helper to the two men taking out the coal? A. Yes; filling coal.

Q. What pay does he get for that? A. \$1.25 and some of them get \$1.50 a day.

Q. Is \$1.50 the highest paid for that kind of work? A. Well, there are some as we call helpers working in leading places, levels and like that—a good man, almost an experienced miner, who can get \$1.50 and \$1.40 a day.

Q. Then I presume the next step is to the miner who digs out the coal? A. Yes.

Q. Are they usually on piece, so much a box? A. Always, so far as I know.

Q. I suppose a man usually learns this part of the business working in there shovelling first and then getting to be able to work around a little with the pick and so works himself into it? A. He would learn a good deal as to how to work the coal from seeing the men he is working for and how they do it.

Q. Then he gets hold of some man who thoroughly understands it and at first I presume he gives him a percentage of earnings, or how do they do it? A. I don't know anyone to work that way unless it is the help.

Q. How does a man that gets as far a shovelling advance himself so far as to become a practical coalcutter? A. Well, if pretty smart he will get some old miner to help him or perhaps the boss will send for him whether he has another one or not.

Q. Would the boss send him in to work without the other miners' consent? A. In most cases here a miner is allowed to choose his own buttey.

Q. What is the usual number of hours per day that a miner works? A. We are supposed to work eight hours; some work more, some less.

Q. Are you a miner? A. Yes; that is my business.

Q. How long have you been a miner? A. For 11 years.

Q. That is since you became a miner inside? A. I have been coal cutting about 11 years.

Q. How much do you generally make a day on an average now, that is taking one month with another? A. Well, I generally make about \$2, or probably a little more a day.

Q. Would it run up to \$2.25 a day? A. I do not think it would average that.



Q. Would you make \$2 a day at least the year round? Q. That is for each day I work, do you mean?

Q. For every day you work do you receive \$2? A. Yes; as near as I can tell you.

Q. How much time do you lose during the entire year? A. I am not prepared to say.

Q. Can you tell us on an average about how much time you lose in a month? A. I cannot; I am not prepared to say.

Q. Can you find work all the time? A. No.

Q. What is the reason you cannot find work always? A. I can only find work as a general rule—well, we can find work when the mine is working; if not we cannot. Sometimes work can be found when the mine is not working, outside work.

Q. What would be the reason or reasons for the mine not being working? A. I do not know about that; sometimes the mine is idle and I do not know what it is for; the company know their own difficulties.

Q. How long is it idle at a time? A. Two or three days and then sometimes it is not idle for months.

Q. How long have you been idle at a time during the last two or three years? A. I am not prepared to say as to that.

Q. You would know whether you were a week or more? A. I would not go further than three days.

Q. In the case of a miner going down into the pit, in what way does he go down; does he go in the cars at any time? A. No; he walks down.

Q. What kind of passage way is there for him to get down to his work? A. It is not an extra one at present, not a very good one.

Q. What objections have you to the way of getting to your work? Could any conveyance be got so as to put you in close proximity to your work? A. Yes, there could and we believe there should be a conveyance to get to and from our work.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. It would not be much difficulty to have a conveyance there, would it? A. No; it would not.

Q. In the case of an explosion in the mine, could the men get out more rapidly than they could by the means now provided, if such conveyance were provided? A. I believe they could get up more rapidly than now if there was a conveyance up the travelling roads than they could now.

Q. How wide are these travelling roads? A. Some six feet and some ten feet.

Q. There could be a travelling side and a conveyance side as well on the ten feet travelling ways? A. Yes; there could be a conveyance on a slope for hoisting and a travelling road too.

Q. Do you know if the price per box is higher now than it was five years ago? The price per box is not so much as it was five years ago, to the best of my knowledge.

Q. Are you satisfied with the way they pay you now by the box, or would you prefer being paid by weight? A. I would just as leave work by the box as by weight.

Q. Does it often happen that a box is docked because of there being bad coal in it through no fault of the men? A. No; I cannot say that there was any box docked on account of bad coal not the fault of the men.

Q. Supposing a box gets off the track, what happens then with it? A. If it gets off the track after it leaves the miner and no one happens to be in charge of it, it is lost.

Q. Do you think the eight-hour system would be advantageous to the miners? A. Yes; certainly.

Q. State in what particulars it would be to their advantage? A. A man would live longer working eight hours in a mine than by working ten hours. As a general rule the air in a mine is not as good air as on the surface and for that reason it would be beneficial for him to work eight instead of ten hours there, and a man could do as

much work in the eight hours as he can in the ten, as he lays himself out to do so much.

Q. Have you heard if the men have made any representations to the management of the mine as to getting the hours altered? A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. Supposing such representations were made, would they be entertained? A. Of course, I am not prepared to say; but I do not think they would; they could not hoist enough coal in eight hours.

Q. Then although a man might cut as much in eight hours as he would in ten they could not hoist it? A. No.

Q. Have you any difficulty now in getting out the coal you cut? A. Yes; we have.

Q. How is that? A. We have generally more men working than there is hoisting power for, especially in the winter.

Q. Could not that be remedied? A. Yes; by not hiring so many men.

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. Do you live in a house belonging to the company? A. I have a house of my own.

Q. Do you consider the taxes you pay high? A. Do you mean the municipal and school taxes?

Q. Yes? A. My taxes would be about \$12.

Q. You would be assessed on the value of your property? A. I think \$500, but I would not be certain.

Q. And for that valuation, \$500, they tax you \$12? A. Yes; but that is an extra tax this year as we are building a new school house and I would not wish it understood that that is the general tax.

Q. Is there any institution here by which miners could improve their mind, such as reading rooms, circulating libraries, &c.? A. No; there is not. There has been a reading room, but I understand it is now closed up.

Q. Has the management ever aided anything of that kind? A. The managing director has made several offers with regard to aiding a reading room.

Q. Have they ever seriously considered the matter themselves, that is the miners? A. I do not know, I cannot say as they have.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do many of the men own their houses? A. Yes; there are considerable of the men who own their houses around here.

Q. Do you think they have paid for them out of the wages they have earned in the mines? A. Yes; I think they have.

Q. Is this \$2 a day or more which you say you earn per day exclusive of what you have to pay for powder and for oil? A. No; when I say \$2 I mean separate from the powder; the price of the powder is deducted from the pay before it is made into days' wages.

Q. You think you would have that much left? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any idea of the cost of the necessities of life, bread, meat, vegetables, tea, sugar and such things, also clothing at Springhill as compared with, say, Halifax? A. No; I have no idea.

Q. You do not know whether the articles you generally require are dearer here or whether they are the same? A. No.

Q. Can you tell us what you pay for a four-pound loaf of bread? A. No; I cannot—I don't have to buy it.

Q. Do you know what you pay for roast beef or for steak? A. No; I can't say as I do. I know what I pay for my winter's beef per quarter.

Q. What do you pay for that? A. It was 7 cents a pound last winter.

Q. Was that for hind quarters? A. Yes; that was for the hind quarter.

Q. What do you pay for potatoes? A. I buy no potatoes; I do not know what they pay for them. I raise my own potatoes.

Q. Do you know what granulated sugar is worth per pound? A. No; I am not prepared to say.

Q. What do you pay for your oil? A. 30 cents a gallon.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How long does a gallon last you? A. I let my wife manage the house and buy things, and I don't know much about that business.

Q. Do you own any land around where your house is built? A. Yes.

Q. How much land have you? A. Three acres.

Q. Did you buy it within a short time? A. I bought it about four years ago.

Q. What did it cost you? A. \$100.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. For the three acres? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. And the same land would cost you now—what? A. About \$400; I bought it in woods and cleared it myself.

Q. Are you in close proximity to the mine? A. No; I live about half a mile from here.

Q. Do you know if many of the miners own land without having houses built on them? A. No; I do not know of many.

Q. Do you know of any? A. There are some few.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Do you know if there has been any accident happen in the tunnels we have heard about? A. That is the tunnels between the seams?

Q. Yes? A. No, I do not.

Q. When the mine is running pretty lively these rakes run frequently through the tunnels, do they not? A. Yes.

Q. Supposing a man has finished his work and wants to get up? A. He won't probably have to wait over two or three minutes.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Are the houses owned by the company cheaper or dearer than the houses owned by outsiders? A. As a general rule they are cheaper.

Q. Would a miner residing in one of the houses owned by the company have a preference in getting work over men living in houses owned by outsiders? A. I do not know as it would make any difference.

Q. Are those houses warm and comfortable in winter time? A. I cannot say they are. My father lived in one, but it was a new house at the time, and it was a very comfortable house when I left it. I have not lived in one of them now for six years.

Q. Is there any organization or fund amongst the miners? A. Yes.

Q. Are there any benefits attached to it for the men? A. No.

Q. I mean sick benefits or death benefits? A. No.

Q. Any accident benefit? A. No; there are no benefits of any kind.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:

Q. Have the company any objections to employing union men? A. No.

Q. In case of a strike do the men generally favor arbitration? A. Yes; the men have always favored arbitration so far as I know of.

Q. Has there been any trouble lately in that direction? A. No; not much to speak of.

Q. Have such troubles always been settled in that way? A. Yes; we have had arbitration in two or three cases, and it has always resulted satisfactorily.

Q. There is no limit to the amount of coal a man can get out in the winter time? A. No.

A—18\*\*



Q. Have you any knowledge as to the sanitary condition of the houses in which miners live? A. I am not prepared to say. I do not frequently go to their houses and cannot say what condition they are in. I have not been in one for years.

Q. Is the drinking water around here good? A. We are not blessed with good drinking water in Springhill anyway.

Q. Is there any difficulty in getting water around the mines for the supply of the engines, &c? A. Yes; there was quite a little spell of idleness last summer on account of the want of water.

Q. Where do they get it from? A. They have holes bored all over the country.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. You have stated that the miners work piece work, and you also stated that they work ten hours a day and that they could do as much in eight, why then cannot they do it in seven? A. If a man goes into the mine and works he only gets a certain amount of time. If I go into the mine to-day or to-morrow and work half a day I get half a day's pay, and if I were to go in there and overwork myself and do it at the top of my muscle and make a day's pay in half a day they will not consider that I have done a day's work; there is a time-keeper there, although they are on piece work or contract work, and the time-keeper and the company gauge our work according to the time we work.

Q. Then, as I understand it, the difficulty would be that they would give you a less rate? A. Yes; if we went in and worked eight hours or seven hours and knocked off at three o'clock I should only get three-quarters of a day.

Q. Although you have done a day's work? A. Although I have done as much work as in ten hours.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are the prices fairly fixed so that the men on the hard coal and the soft coal and on the different seams can average about the same wages? A. I do not know as they are.

Q. There are some works preferable to others even at the higher or lower prices? A. Yes.

Q. And those prices are fixed by the company after watching the time which the men take in cutting a certain quantity of coal? A. Yes; it is fixed according to their best judgment.

Q. Is there any favoritism shown in sending certain men to the best character of work? A. Well, I can't say as there is; there are some of the men, older hands and more practical miners, sent to certain work which will have to be done in a more particular way, that is all so far as I know, that is the only difference made; the management of the mine will put a more experienced man in a place where they wish it to be done in a particular way.

Q. Did I understand the last witness to say that only safety lamps were used in the mine? A. I am not prepared to say what the last witness said.

Q. Are there certain dangerous places anywhere in the mines? A. I do not know as there is a dangerous place in the mine.

Q. I was in the mine to-day and saw nothing but open lamps used, is that usual? A. I do not know as there is a place in these mines but where an open lamp could be used, but if it stood a couple of hours then it might be necessary to use a safety lamp, but generally an open lamp is all that is necessary.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Is there any system of fines for anything you may do? A. Nothing that I am aware of any more than for short measure or like that unless you call that a fine if we send up a box that ain't quite full they dock it from us, that is about the only fine I know of.

Q. Do you consider it fair that that should be taken away from you? A. No; I do not.

Q. That goes in and is screened with the rest of the coal? A. Yes; so far as I am aware of.

Q. And you lose that? A. Yes; we lose that entirely.

Q. A man might load a couple of boxes a day that way and would they all be taken away from him? A. The boss at the bank or the foreman at the bank is supposed to deduct all the short boxes as far as I am aware—at least the miner understands they are supposed to deduct every box not filled or dirty.

Q. That is stone or clay? A. Yes, anything not filled with coal.

Q. Is there any way of remedying that at all that you know of? A. I do not know there is any way of remedying it; it would hardly do to stop docking but there should be some scale arranged so that we would not lose the whole box; but it is right, when it is done, that we should lose some proportion of the box.

Q. Have the men ever tried to make any arrangement by which that might be remedied? A. Yes; the men have suggested that it might be remedied by deducting a certain number of pounds or a certain amount to be taken from the box; we have tried to make an arrangement with the official of the mine to that effect.

Q. The men have now no man employed to inspect the coal on their behalf? A. No.

Q. Have you anything to suggest to the Commission which might be of benefit to miners? A. I could say several things that would be of benefit to the miner.

Q. Then let us hear them? A. The most particular thing would be the riding up and down; we believe we should ride to and from our work and that our tools should be sent down to us.

Q. Do you now have to carry your tools down to the mine with you? A. Yes.

Q. Are they sent up for you? A. When we have done using them, that is the picks or drills, we put them in a box and they are sent back and then we carry them back when they are sharpened.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How much in weight would there be in a load of picks such as you carry down with you? A. Two men are supposed to have eight picks, two drills; they would not have to carry the drills more than twice a week, probably after working in a hard place eight picks would not do all day—that leaves four picks each man each weighing about two or three pounds with the handle and that and your dinner and a powder can and if you put that together you will have a better idea than I can give you as to what the weight would be.

Q. Have you any suggestion to make that might remedy that? A. I do not know that I could say any more.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Does a boy pay anything towards the doctor? A. A boy getting a dollar a day pays the doctor; a boy getting under that pays nothing.

Q. A boy paying \$1 pays as much as a man to the doctor does he? A. As much as a single man.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. The only great grievance then that you have is that of going down and carrying your tools with you? A. That is our heaviest grievance and the fact is it is about all we have to complain of, that is as I know of.

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SPRINGHILL, 13th April, 1889.

WILLIAM REES, overman at Springhill mines, sworn and examined.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are you paid by the day or by the ton? A. By the month.

Q. What is your monthly pay? A. It amounts to about \$2 a day.

A—18½\*\*

Q. How many hours do you work per day? A. My usual time is about eight hours, but then of course, I am supposed to be on duty whenever called on.

Q. But your actual services average about eight hours a day? A. Yes; about eight hours.

Q. Is that day or night work? A. It is day work. I go out at six o'clock in the morning and if nothing is wrong in the day I go home at two.

Q. Are there many men occupying positions similar to you? A. There is one in each mine, each pit.

Q. How many would that be altogether? A. Three, that is in the fore shift—and then there are men who come in the afternoon to relieve us.

Q. Do you mean only three in the whole of the mines? A. In the regular day shift.

Q. Then three at night? A. Then three at night.

Q. How frequently are you paid? A. We are paid fortnightly, if we choose to take it, sometimes we do—sometimes I take mine and sometimes I do not; we would get it fortnightly if we chose to do so.

Q. That is the regular pay day for the whole mine? A. Except that once in a while it come around, every month or two, that there is a three weeks' pay.

Q. What day of the week are you paid on? A. We are always paid on Saturday.

Q. When you are paid on Saturday up to what time is your pay made up? A. It is fortnightly pay, you understand, it is not made up very correctly, that is to the cent.

Q. It is not full pay up to the date of payment? A. No; they pay up to the fifteenth of the month.

Q. Then on the fifteenth your time is made up correctly to that date? A. On the 15th the time is in the office and the men are paid accordingly as to their time or their measurement, whatever that may be, and they are paid two or three days afterwards.

Q. In full up to the 15th? A. Yes.

Q. Are the men always paid in cash? A. Yes; so far as I know they are always paid in cash.

Q. Has the company any stores? A. None.

Q. Do they supply the men with goods of any description? A. Nothing except oil; they keep oil and powder, and of course it is optional with the men whether they take their oil or not.

Q. If the men were to buy oil and powder from outsiders would the company show any dislike to it? A. There is no one else keeps powder, but I do not know that they care whether you buy your oil from them or not. I think but very few buy it from the company. I think the men chiefly get it from the stores.

Q. If you buy oil from the company do you think you get it as cheaply as from outside persons? A. I am not just prepared to answer that question whether both are the same price or not, but so far as I know there is very little difference whatever.

Q. However, you are absolutely free to please yourself as to the purchase of oil? A. Yes.

Q. Does the company exercise any control over the outside dealers who sell oil? A. Not any that I know of.

Q. Is the powder that the company sells to the miners as good and as cheap as they could buy elsewhere under ordinary circumstances? A. So far as I know, but I am not prepared to answer that question fully.

Q. Have you ever heard any complaints on that score? A. No; I cannot say that I have.

Q. Would other persons be permitted to deal in powder if they desired to do so? A. Do you mean would the men be?



Q. No; the merchants in the town, would they be permitted to sell it? A. Well, I do not know that there is anything to prevent them if they had a mind to go into the business, not that I am aware of any way.

Q. Does the company own houses in which miners live? A. Yes.

Q. Many of them? A. Probably about 60 or 70 altogether; maybe more or less, for I cannot say exactly as to number.

Q. How many rooms would there be on the average in the houses which the miners occupy? A. Three or four rooms and a kitchen.

Q. What rent would they pay for such a house? A. They have them at different prices, just according to the position of them; some of them are better fitted up and larger than others, too—more rooms—and they pay \$1.50, \$2 and \$2.50 a month for them.

Q. Does the company supply the miners with their coal free? A. No; not free.

Q. What do they charge miners for coal, that is, the men in their employ? A. I think that they have to pay about 75 cents a load.

Q. About how much would a load be? A. I suppose somewheres from one-half to three-quarters of a ton.

Q. About what would be the taxes paid by a miner; take the average miner? Perhaps you had better tell us what taxes you pay yourself? A. Which taxes do you mean?

Q. All taxes; any tax you pay, municipal taxes, road taxes, school tax and all such like? A. We pay \$1 school tax, \$1 road tax and we pay about forty cents a year, that is for poor and for county rates.

Q. Do you pay a monthly allowance to a doctor? A. Yes.

Q. What is that monthly allowance? A. Men of families pay 45 cents and single men pay 35 cents a month.

Q. Are you able to tell us what the boys pay? A. They do not pay any till they come of age.

Q. Do the men have any voice in the selection of the doctor? A. Solely; they are the parties that select.

Q. The company does not choose him? A. No; I do not think they have ever interfered with that yet.

Q. Is this arrangement one made by the company or by the company with the consent or acquiescence of the men? A. I think the present doctors are chosen by the men and of course it is sanctioned by the company; they assist them by collecting it and keeping it from the pay of the men in the office; it is a mutual agreement between them.

Q. Have the men any fault at all to find with the arrangement? A. Well, I think not so far as I know, or at least I think the majority of the men at any rate are perfectly satisfied with that agreement.

Q. Does the doctor supply medicine as well as advice? A. Yes.

Q. In critical cases such as a broken limb where consultation is necessary, or assistance is necessary, does the doctor make any extra charge? A. No.

Q. In cases of mid-wifery does he make an extra charge? A. Yes.

Q. That is understood when the bargain is made with the men? A. He charges \$2 then any way. At least he does to me.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Would you be kind enough to tell us what your duties are? A. To enter the mine and see that everything is right and kept in order, and to see that the orders of the underground manager are carried out.

Q. You are the first person to enter the mine in the morning? A. Yes; I am.

Q. Those appointed to inspect the mine during the night, do they report to you? A. Yes; every morning.

Q. Do they employ safety lamps? A. Yes.

Q. And always use them? A. Yes; and never anything else.

Q. Has there ever been any accident through going around without safety lamps? A. No; well we had one man slightly burned here at one time.

Q. Was that through his own neglect? A. Yes; there was a small place which made a slight quantity of gas and he went to blast there; the fireman was in his company too, that is the man who does this kind of work; they were talking together a few moments and did not go right to work in the place and he forgot himself and there was a small quantity, perhaps a foot or so of gas that had accumulated there and it fired and he got burned.

Q. What action would be taken against a person who would do that and go around without a safety lamp; that is if a slight accident happened again such as you have mentioned and it was reported to the manager? A. I suppose the manager would be empowered to fine him. I do not know whether there is any certain law about it, but I suppose there would be a fine put on him and he would have to pay it or be discharged from the works.

Q. What kind of safety lamp do you use, is it the most improved safety lamp? A. Well, we have all kinds here; of course it is not necessary to have enough of them for all the men to work with, but still we have all the latest improved lamps and each fireman can have any kind of lamp he chooses, but they generally choose a Glenny.

Q. Of course it is not necessary here as the works are well ventilated? A. Yes; very well.

Q. The travelling roads are safe are they? A. Yes; they try to keep them in order as well as possible; as far as I know they are in good order.

Q. In the tunnels how do men, when the work is going on, get on in the tunnels; is there any warning given them? A. They are never allowed to go through unless there is no horse coming through them, and if there is they have to stand back.

Q. How do they know when a horse is coming? A. They keep a boy at each end to call to one another when the road is in traffic.

Q. The rakes are run pretty frequently through these tunnels? A. Some very frequently; yes.

Q. And if a person enters one of these he does so at his own risk when the rakes are running? A. Yes; if he goes out against the boys' orders or the person there.

Q. Do the boys always attend to their duty? A. They are always there from morning till night when they are running.

Q. Have you ever known any accident to happen in the tunnels? A. No; not by any one going through while at work.

Q. In coming up the slope how is it arranged for the men to come up, do they walk up? A. Sometimes they do from some of the pits not very deep; they walk up a good many but generally they ride.

Q. Is it a general rule that they walk? A. Yes.

Q. Is there a separate road for them? A. Yes; there are travelling roads for them.

Q. Coming up those travelling roads have they assistance of any kind? A. No; no assistance, only steps.

Q. No railing on the side? A. I am not just prepared to say how it is in the other pits, but at present we have none in ours.

Q. Do you not think it would be an advantage to the men after a hard day's work to have assistance to come up? A. Yes; I suppose a railing would help the men a bit.

Q. There is no light on the travelling road? A. Directing lights?

Q. Yes? A. No; there are no permanent lights.

Q. Do you not think it would be an advantage to have them at certain distances? A. No; I do not think so; I do not think it is necessary; it would not be safe to have permanent lights with no one to look after them.

Q. Is the air perfectly good on the travelling roads? A. Yes; as a rule; in fact most of them have a return air-way; they are all well ventilated.

Q. Then there could be no danger from a hanging light? A. It would not be advisable to have a hanging light anywhere in the mine without a person to look after it as it might cause fire.

Q. Does the price paid for coal by the miners include the hauling or do they have to pay that extra? A. No; they get it for that price.

Q. It is supplied to them at the price stated? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What provisions are made for the men attending to their wants in the pit—say the men down at the further end of the workings? A. To satisfy their natural wants they have generally to go into the main borings.

Q. Is there any provision made for them for such purposes—are they taken at all into consideration? A. No; there is no regular provision made, but there is always plenty of places in the old workings out of the main workings.

Q. Do you ever find fault with the men using such places? A. Occasionally; when it causes the men inconvenience we have to find fault.

Q. Do you not think it would be advisable on the part of the management to see that provision was made for such purposes? A. I do not know rightly what provision could be made unless provision was made to send the men up altogether; that is, better provision than they have.

Q. What is the distance down to the bottom of the pit if a man were called and wanted to come to the top of the works; would he have to tramp it up? A. Yes.

Q. He would not have a chance of getting on one of those little caravans to get up? A. No; he is not allowed to ride on them.

Q. When taking down their tools to work in the pit—does the company furnish the tools to the men? A. Yes.

Q. What tools do they furnish to each man? A. Well, each set of men gets eight picks a day, and they get two shovels and the necessary boring tools, a maul and a wedge.

Q. Do the men have to lug these up and down every day? A. They send their picks up in the boxes, but when they go to work in the morning they have generally to carry them down with them.

Q. Are they obliged to carry them down? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think it would be as easy to send them down in the cars to the foot of the mine—I mean where it branches off at the foot—would there be any difficulty in sending them down? A. The men generally like to take their tools with them. For instance a great many of the men don't go down there at all—perhaps half of the men don't go down there at all, but go off to other works by short cuts, and to send their tools down there would be extra labor to them.

Q. But there are boxes going to where these men would be at work? A. Yes; no doubt the boxes would get there through the day.

Q. There would be none going for an hour or half an hour after they would have gone down? A. No; may be longer.

Q. What is the longest distance from the top of the mine to where these men are working? A. Which way do mean?

Q. To go down and to branch off to either of these places? A. I suppose the very longest distance we have is, may be, three-quarters of a mile.

Q. Supposing the endless chain should break some day in going down and some of the men on the line of road coming up—? A. The men don't travel that way.

Q. Are they not allowed to travel on that? A. No; there is a separate travelling road altogether from the top to the bottom.

Q. I suppose the members of the Commission could have the privilege of seeing that and walking down if they chose? A. Yes.

Q. Did I understand you to say that the men are paid at the end of the month in full up to the 15th? A. They pay every fortnight. Up to the 15th of the month they have the time put in and then at the end of the month they get a scrip. They get every fortnight a sum equivalent to what they make or something near to it as



they don't in the office make it up particularly, but at the end of the month it is made up right and they get scrip for the full sum due them, and then they are paid.

Q. You have some small boys working down there in that mine, I suppose? A. Yes.

Q. What is the age of the youngest one that you know of? A. There are none under twelve so far as I know.

Q. When those boys ask for employment in the mine do you usually ask their age? A. Yes; we are not allowed to take them under twelve.

Q. Is there any law in force in the province prohibiting you? A. Yes.

Q. A Provincial law? A. Yes.

Q. Do most of the boys in the mines read and write? A. Well, a good many of them I know can, but there may be some that cannot; but I think the majority of them can read and write very well.

Q. You never have any girls employed in the mine? A. None.

Q. Those boys employed there have so much per day? A. Yes.

Q. Supposing a boy aged twelve comes to the mine and is employed by you or whoever employs him what pay will he get? A. The lowest we pay is forty-five cents a day.

Q. And then according as he becomes more useful you advance his pay? A. Yes.

Q. After a boy has been at work for about a year what would he receive? A. He may get 60, 70 or 80 cents a day.

Q. Just according to his worth? A. Yes; just according to his worth.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. What is the age of the youngest boy employed there? A. Twelve, and there are very few of them.

Q. There is no law regulating it, is there? A. Yes; there is no boy under that age allowed there; you are not allowed to hire them.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Has there been any accidents in the mine from the roof coming down? A. There have been very few accidents in this mine.

Q. How long has it been that the last accident took place from the roof coming down? A. About a fortnight ago there were two men injured, it was not the roof though—I think it was the roof coal or stone that fell on them while mining it.

Q. Had it been timbered up or was it insufficiently timbered? A. They were drawing it, taking out the pillars.

Q. You say such accidents are not frequent? A. Very few in these works.

Q. When these two men were hurt were they acting under the direction of the foreman or on his responsibility? A. He was under the direction of the foreman or manager of the mine.

Q. He was working according to those instructions? A. I could not say just at the time, he might have had instructions may be to take care of himself or to do it in a different way, I am not prepared to say; it was not in the department I was in.

Q. If a man working under orders from the manager or foreman got injured does his pay continue while he is laid up? A. No; I don't think.

Q. Is there any fund from which such a man draws any benefit or pay or allowance? A. Yes; there is a benefit society in connection with the company.

Q. Do the men contribute the whole of the funds to that society or does the management contribute anything? A. The company contributes about one-third or 50 per cent., I am not sure which.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Do the men who contribute to that fund do so optionally? A. It is universal with us. When a man comes they won't force him to pay it if he does not want to be in the society.

Q. It is optional with himself? A. Yes.

Q. The tax for it is collected in the office? A. Yes.

Q. How is that benefit given to the person who is injured—what arrangement is there for its distribution—what way do the company provide to pay the injured man? A. It is all done in the office. There is a secretary and a treasurer, and the money is held back and put into the Halifax Banking Company here.

Q. Is there any scale by which the persons injured receive it? A. Thirty cents is the universal pay and he gets \$2.50 a week.

Q. For how long? A. Twenty six weeks. A man paying 50 cents gets \$4 if he is taken sick or gets hurt. He gets a cheque on the bank for his money, and it is given fortnightly on the same system as the men are paid.

Q. Do the men generally take advantage of that society and subscribe towards it? A. I think it is pretty nearly universal.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you know whether there is an accumulation of money in this fund as a rule or is it pretty closely drawn upon? A. Well, last year they did not get much of a surplus as there was a good deal of sickness. There was a good deal of fever contracted by the men in the work which kept it down, but they got some surplus and that was a safe sign.

Q. Is there any death benefit? A. Yes, \$60.

Q. Is that the same to both classes of persons who pay into the funds of the society? A. Yes; I think the death benefit claim is the same no matter which rate you pay.

Q. That is where death results from sickness or accident? A. Yes; there is so much allowed to the widow and each child for so long a time—for a year.

Q. The money is invested in the bank here? A. Yes.

Q. In whose name? A. There are trustees.

Q. Appointed by whom? A. Appointed by the men, of course; the officials of the company have a man or two men and the men have three men on it—there are five trustees.

Q. Do these trustees give ample security that they will handle the money properly? A. I think so.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Is each man furnished with the rules as to the conduct of its business and the distribution of the funds? A. Yes. There is a copy for each man who wants them.

Q. Each one can have a copy if he wants it? A. Yes; a copy of the by-laws and a report of every year's proceedings.

Q. The company are the sureties for the proper care of the fund, are they? A.

Q. The company become responsible for their officials, do they not? A. I suppose they would; of course they are largely interested in it themselves as they pay a good amount to it.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. How often does the inspector visit the mine? A. Monthly.

Q. Every month? A. Pretty regularly, every month.

Q. In case he does not come himself is there a deputy inspector? A. It is the deputy inspector I mean.

Q. Are you furnished with a copy of the rules for working in this mine? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any objection to giving me a copy of them? A. No.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Will you send us a copy in the morning? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What time do the boys work in a day? A. They are supposed to work ten hours. Of course, some do, but as a rule they generally do not work more than eight or nine hours.

Q. Do the foremen in the mines ever kick or beat these boys for not attending to their work, their duties; have you ever known boys to get kicked by overseers or foremen in the mine? A. I cannot say that I do.

Q. Would the company allow the foreman in the different shifts to beat and abuse boys? A. No; I do not think they would.

Q. You do not know of any boy ever getting a beating from a foreman? A. No.

Q. How many altogether are employed? A. Well, I suppose, in all probability about 1,400 or 1,500.

Q. How many of them are boys? A. Probably there would be 100 or 150 boys.

Q. How many doctors are there? A. There are three recognised colliery doctors.

Q. In what manner are they elected by the men—describe the way? A. They hold a public meeting in one of the halls and they agree unanimously upon a man; of course the doctors here now are those who were here when the work started.

Q. Is there any system of fines in the mines? A. Yes; there is a system.

Q. What are the men fined for? A. They will be fined if they disobey orders or do anything against the mining laws in any way, then they are liable to be punished.

Q. Is it against the rules laid down for these mines? A. Against the Mining Act.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are they fined by the company or by the authorities? A. The company would take them before the stipendiary magistrate.

Q. Would they be fined under a provincial act? A. Yes.

A. And would they be fined for any infringement of the rules made by the company? A. No; it would be under instructions from the company, or the company would be the parties taking the charge against them.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. There are not any fines extracted from the men for the benefit of the company? A. No.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Have they a scale of prices for digging out this coal? A. Yes.

Q. Be kind enough to state to the Commission to the best of your knowledge, just what the difference is and how the contracts are made and the men paid? A. The men are generally paid by the month.

Q. Yes; you have stated how they were paid before, but we want the scale of prices paid for taking out the different kinds of coal in a seam? A. The men are generally paid less for taking out soft than for hard coal.

Q. But what is the difference in the scale of prices? A. It would run all the way from 25 to 50 cents per box.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How much is there in a box? A. About 1,650 pounds weight is what is generally allowed, that is about the average.

By Mr. KELLY:

Q. How many boxes would two men get out in a day—as I understand you two men work together? A. Yes.

Q. And they divide the pay? A. Yes.

Q. And do they have to pay anybody out of the schedule of prices? A. They hire their own loader or helper who loads the coal for them and they have to pay him.

Q. How many boxes would the two men and the helper get out in a day? A. Well, in some places they dig from 20 to 22 boxes a day.



By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Has there to be any particular weight in each box? A. The boxes are supposed to be filled to the level as a general rule.

Q. Supposing they are not filled level is there anything docked off the men? A. Yes; if they are not filled full according to orders they are docked.

Q. That is they are not paid at all for the coal in them? A. No.

Q. Where does that coal go? A. Well, it is generally this way. If a man is sending out thirty boxes a day and leaves most of them slack, they will dock him one in the whole day's work.

Q. Supposing he works twenty-five days in the month, he will probably lose twenty-five boxes? A. Perhaps a man will get docked once a week—perhaps not at all.

Q. Do the men agree to that? A. To which?

Q. To allowing the boxes to be deducted? A. If they know they have not filled their boxes, and not done their duty in that respect, they have to put up with it, and can't say anything.

Q. Do you think that the men should not be paid; that there should be an understanding of some kind with regard to the amount to be deducted from them?

A. Well, it a pretty hard matter to regulate. Of course if a man is only filling one box slack, and if he was docked it would be a difference, it would be a different thing, but if a man made a practice of doing it, and was then docked one or so, it would be no more than what is right, but it is a difficult thing to regulate that.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Is the coal not weighed as it comes up? A. No; not here.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Do the men prefer to work by boxes instead of by weight? A. I never heard any objection here; they appear to be satisfied.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Did you ever work in any other mine but this? A. No.

Q. You do not know about the prices paid per box in other mines? A. No; I have not any correct knowledge of what is paid in other mines.

Q. Do you know whether the boxes are about the same as those used in other mines? A. About the same size, I am not prepared to say whether they are or not, in some mines the boxes are made larger and in some smaller, but I do not know the difference.

Q. You said that from 25 to 50 cents difference was paid for each box as to the coal being hard or otherwise? A. Yes.

Q. Would you suppose the coal at the end of the shaft where we went was hard? A. Yes; it is about as hard as any piece of coal we have in the workings.

Q. It will cost about 50 cents a box? A. Yes; that is about what they pay for that.

Q. How many boxes of that would a man get out in a day? A. From 12 to 14 boxes a day I should suppose.

ALEXANDER FERGUSON, miner, sworn and examined.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. You heard Mr. Paul give testimony? A. Yes.

Q. Do you corroborate his testimony or is there any part different to what you think? A. It was just this way to me: this is something I feel an interest in, and the impression might be carried around that this two dollars a day was about the average pay here, and I for one would like to see the thing right, and not as one individual, because there is a great difference in men and a difference in the places

in the mine and the chances that individuals get, and of course in giving evidence here it must be right, and if not it would be a misrepresentation of facts.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How much do you earn per day when you put in a full day? A. To answer that question I must ask one: What would you consider a full day? Would you consider it a full day to work and only get out a little coal?

Q. By your working an ordinary day in the mine? If you are employed during the whole day how much do you earn? A. It would rate something like this—perhaps \$2 25 to 60 or 75 cents.

Q. Did you ever work a full day for 60 or 75 cents? A. Yes; in the way I shall put it—that is my only source of employment—I have to go there in the morning and stop there maybe 6, 7 or 8 hours and maybe more—

Q. That is you are idle part of the time? A. Yes; we are idle part of the time, it is not what we can make, it is what we claim we can make.

Q. Can you give the Commission any idea of your earnings for the past year? About how much have you actually earned during the past year? A. The past year in my case would not be right because part of the time I was not in the mine. I would suppose from about \$300 to \$350 is the average wage.

Q. Of all men employed in the coal mine? A. Yes.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. How long have you been employed continuously in the mine? A. In the mine with the exception of a few months, fifteen years.

Q. How many months have you been employed continuously? A. Five months.

Q. What have been your earnings or pretty near your earnings per month during those five months? A. I should think, but I would not be positive, from \$10 to \$30.

Q. You have earned as little as \$10 a month within the last five months? A. Yes; or \$10.50.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Did you go down to the mine every day that month? A. Fifteen and a half days.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. What was the highest amount you received for any one month this last five months? A. Well, it would not exceed forty dollars.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Before this five months how long were you out of the mine? A. One month.

Q. What do you think your earnings would be for five months before that? A. I was only in the mine two months previous to that; I was out a while previous to that.

Q. This was on your own affairs? A. No; employed by the company.

Q. At other work? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you own a house? A. I expect to.

Q. You are in the Building Society, I presume? A. Yes.

Q. Did you purchase the land? A. Yes.

Q. That is on which your house stands? A. Yes.

Q. What is the size of the lot? A. 50 by 100.

Q. What did it cost you? A. \$100.

Q. Do you rent a tenement in your house? A. No.

Q. You build for your own use? A. Yes.

Q. How many rooms in it? A. 7 rooms.

Q. Did you make the money with which you paid for this house in whole or in part out of your labors in this mine? A. Yes.

Q. Have you worked in other mines? A. No.

Q. Do you know whether the necessities of life are more costly here than in Halifax or Truro or Amherst? A. Yes; they are.

Q. Do you think that flour is dearer? A. I would not say particularly about flour just now.

Q. Beef? A. Yes; it is dearer.

Q. And the other necessities of life are dearer are they, clothing and such like? A. Yes; clothing is dearer.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Could you give us the reason why you can earn only sixty cents a day for one month and \$2 a day for another? A. Because the mine is over-stocked with men.

Q. Too many men for the amount of work? A. Too many men for the capacity to take the coal out of the mine.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Is there any information you desire to give the Commission? A. No; I do not know there is anything particularly; there is this fact of the men being over-crowded in the mine in the winter time—in talking, of course, I am doing so for my own benefit, and it may be those who employ me would not see it as a benefit to them; then there is the walking down, for the men to walk down and then work and then walk up again is something simply laborious. Then we have to carry our tools five or six picks and borers and our meals, &c.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. The only difference then in your testimony and those who preceded you is that they do not earn the money stated, that is not \$2 a day? A. I do not say that the statement is wrong with them, but I say that such a statement did not give the universal rate, that that rate is not the universal rate, and I say if they knew the real state of it they might avoid it.

By Mr. HAGGERLY:—

Q. It is because they cannot get the coal away is it? A. And sometimes they cannot dig it. As to the eight-hour system I do not think any man should work more than eight hours a day; some men are more muscular than others and can get wound up to do more than others, they have more exertion than others and if allowed to go and come when they liked it would make things better.

CHARLES RUNNEY, miner, sworn and examined.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. You have also heard the evidence of the other gentlemen who have given evidence before you? A. Yes.

Q. Do you corroborate these testimony? A. Yes.

Q. In every respect? A. In every respect.

Q. Is there anything you might have to add that would be of benefit to us? A. Well, I might suggest that there could be a pick house at the foot of the slope—supposing we rode down, that is one of our main grievances having to walk—if there was a pick house at the bottom of the slope the same as at the top a boy could hand them out there just as easy as at the top and for us to carry them down. There is also a great grievance as to over-crowding in the mine during the winter. For the last three weeks we have got three day's work, and then when we do get a day's work it is only worth half a day; there are so many men in the mine that they cannot get up all the coal.



By Mr. HAGGERTY :—

Q. How could that be remedied? A. By not engaging more men than they could find employment for.

Q. Do more men come to work here in the winter than in the summer? A. I do not know they do, but they get more cars to take away the coal.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. You mean they get the coal away in summer more easily than in winter than from above or is it that they cannot get it away from the miners? A. It is by not taking the coal from the miners to the surface.

Q. Why cannot they take it away as rapidly in winter as they can in summer?

Q. Well, there is more trouble about the screens and about getting the cars away; there is a good deal of trouble caused on account of the snow and ice and there are several other things they have to contend with in winter that they have not to contend with in summer.

Q. They give work to the men in winter in order that they may have them in the summer? A. I do not know the reason; they seem to employ too many men all the time according to my idea.

Q. Do you think they could get as much coal away with less men? A. Well, I think they could.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. You think they could get out as much coal with less men, but the men would have steadier work? A. The men would have steadier work.

Q. You do not mean that the men would get more work than now? A. Not if they were able to get away the coal, that is where the grievance lies. We go out there and are supposed to work a day and we get perhaps half a day's pay about.

By Mr. HAGGERTY :—

Q. Although really being in the mine all day? A. Yes.

Q. And that is caused by their not being able to get the coal away? A. Yes; if you are a miner and have coal enough to keep your loader going then you can go home, but there is no compulsion to stay there.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q. Have you worked in other places? A. Yes; I have only worked a short time here.

Q. Where did you work previously? A. I came from Scotland here, and I do not know much about the mines in the Province.

Q. Tell us the rate of wages in Scotland and the number of days you worked in the year, and how they would compare with here? A. We generally have no idle time. I worked most of the time in blast furnaces where they mined their own coal, and there was less wages, but you could get more for your wages.

Q. Do you consider that you were there in a better or worse position than you are here? A. I consider I was, perhaps as well or better there than here.

Q. If you had constant employment here do you think you would be in a better position here? A. Yes; I think I would.

Q. The only reason is that you think there are too many men employed in the mines to keep the work clear? A. Yes.

Q. What rent do you pay? A. \$2.50.

Q. Are you pleased with your house? A. Yes; I am well pleased with the house.

Q. How did you work in the old country? A. By the ton.

Q. Can you give us the actual price? A. It is according to the place you had and the quality of the coal; I worked from one shilling to one shilling and eight-pence per ton.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How thick would the run of seams be? A. From two feet up to seven which was the highest—for that you would have twelpence a ton—when wages were four shillings a day you would have a shilling a ton.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Would four shillings a day go further there than say six shillings a day here? A. I think it would.

Q. What was the price of flour on the other side? A. I could not exactly tell, we generally got bread and could tell the price of the loaf.

Q. What would be the cost of a four-pound loaf? A. Six or seven pence.

Q. How was beef over there? A. Beef was eight pence to perhaps a shilling a pound sometimes.

Q. What do you pay for it here? A. Well, from about eight cents to fourteen cents a pound.

Q. What would be the price of potatoes—are they sold by the stone or by the pound? A. By the stone.

Q. What are they worth a stone? A. Sometimes they would be two-pence half-penny or three pence a stone.

Q. What would it cost for the same weight here? A. I think it is four stone to the bushel, and the bushel costs thirty cents here; we average about fifty cents the year round.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. You make out that potatoes are twice as high here as in the old country? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What rent would you pay in the old country? A. About six shillings a month.

Q. How many rooms would you have for six shillings? A. You would only have two rooms for six shillings a month.

Q. Could you get two rooms for the same money here? A. Yes.

Q. What would you pay for coal in the old country? A. In some places you get your coal by paying for the hauling.

Q. What did you generally pay for it? A. We generally had to pay just for the hauling. I have worked in some places where we had to pay four shillings a ton for it.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. For the coal? A. Yes.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. What part of the old country was that in? A. Lanarkshire.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. There is nothing in which you differ from the gentlemen who preceded you here? A. No.

CHARLES RUNNEY (recalled).

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. You said you worked in the old country? A. Yes.

Q. Under what system was work carried on there? Was it under what is known as the eight-hour system? A. No; sometimes the men there, being united, would say they would work eight hours, but it was generally broken through by the

men themselves; sometimes they would strike and the masters would refuse to allow them to be out of the pit before ten hours, when they would determine on eight hours; then they would strike, but it was never a regular system in my time.

Q. Do you know whether or not the system was conducted in any mine there?  
A. It was conducted there, but it was often broken through, and I never knew it to become regular.

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PHILIP WHITE, miner, sworn and examined.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Do you corroborate the testimony of the previous witness? A. Yes.

Q. Have you anything to add to it in any respect? A. No; not that I know of.

Q. Nothing at all? A. No.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. Do you own your house? A. Yes.

Q. Do you own the land around it? A. Yes; what it is on.

Q. How long is it since you bought it? A. About 5 months.

Q. You built the house that is on it since then? A. No; there was a house on it.

Q. Did you make the money which you paid for it out of your labor in these mines? A. Yes.

Q. You have nothing to add to the statements made by the former witnesses—that is, anything that you think would be beneficial to the men? A. No.

Q. You do not think they exaggerated anything? A. No; I do not think they did.

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MURDOCK McLEOD, miner, sworn and examined.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How long have you been employed in these mines? A. From the first start?

Q. Yes? A. About twenty years.

Q. How old were you when you first started? A. About nine years.

Q. What pay did you receive when you first commenced? A. I think, as near as I can remember, 45 cents a day. That was for trapping.

Q. Could you read and write at that time? A. Yes.

Q. You then improved and went along, and how long was it before you got a dollar a day? A. I should suppose about four or five years.

Q. Would it be five years? A. Yes.

Q. Then you would be 14 or 15? A. Yes.

Q. What next did you do? A. After I was trapping and worked myself up I drove and I was paid so much a box and I could make \$1 a day.

Q. You are now a miner? A. Yes.

Q. You heard the evidence given by Mr. Paul? A. Yes.

Q. Do you corroborate the statements made by him in every particular? A. Yes.

Q. Have you anything additional to offer the Commission? A. No; I do not think I have any suggestion to make.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. Can you give the Commission any idea as to the cost of groceries, meat, &c.? A. No.

Q. You do not keep track of such things? A. No.



Q. Do you own a house? A. No.

Q. You hire one? A. Yes.

Q. From the company? A. Yes.

Q. How much do you pay per month? A. \$2.

Q. How many rooms are there? A. Two rooms upstairs and a kitchen.

Q. How many downstairs? A. One.

Q. That would be four rooms? A. Yes; three rooms and a kitchen and a kind of porch attached.

Q. Do you think that the rent you are paying is too much? A. No; I do not think the rent is too much?

Q. You find no objection to that? A. No.

Q. Do you subscribe towards the doctor. A. Yes.

Q. Have you any objection to that? A. No.

Q. You think the fee is not too high? A. No.

Q. Do you belong to a labor organization? A. No.

Q. You do not belong to any society? A. To the Miners' Union I do.

Q. Do the company object to or find fault with any man who belongs to a Miners' Union, or have they done so within your knowledge? A. Well, I do not think they have.

Q. Have you known the company to blacklist any man foremost in getting up organizations or any society? A. No; I do not know of it.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Is this a Scott Act town? A. They try to be one.

Q. Do the managers of the mine take a lively interest in the temperance welfare of the miners? A. Well, I think they do.

Q. They endeavor by all means in their power to get the men to join temperance organizations? A. Yes; so far as I know.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Do the managers join the temperance society themselves in the first place? A. Yes; I think some of them do belong to it, although I do not myself.

Q. Is your health generally good? A. Yes; pretty good.

Q. How is the air in the mine? A. It is pretty good around the workings.

Q. Is there anything in the mine which would tend to shorten life or impair health? A. There are some parts of it a little damp.

Q. Are there any of the miners old men? A. Yes.

Q. About what age would the oldest be? A. About 74 would be the oldest I know of.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. He would not be a coal cutter? A. No.

Q. A laborer? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What is the age of the oldest coal cutter that you know? A. I think about 65.

Q. How long would he be coal cutting? A. I could not say; a good many years, anyway.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. You spoke of working when nine years old; do you know any boy as young as that working in the mine now? A. I could not say there is.

Q. What would be the age of the youngest boy working in the mine? A. I do not know there is any under 12—I could not say for sure.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Do you know if any of the miners when they get up to say 60 or 65 years of age retire from working in the mine? A. Yes.

Q. Many of them? A. Yes; some.

Q. Looking around the audience I see they are young men; do you not think that the old miners take sufficient interest in the labors of the Commission or in their own interests to come and give us their views? A. I cannot say.

Q. Are the majority of them young men or old? A. They are young men.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:

Q. What would the youngest of the boys be employed at? A. Trapping I suppose; they do different kinds of work.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Is driving hard work? A. No.

Q. Not too hard for boys? A. No.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Do the old men whom you say retire have sufficient saved on which to live for the remainder of their lives? A. I do not know about that.

Q. Is it because they are too old to work or have they families to help them? A. I do not know whether that or too old to work; I could not say.

ANDREW SCOTT, miner, sworn and examined.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. You heard the statement made by the gentlemen who preceded you? A. Yes.

Q. Do you agree with that testimony in every particular? A. Yes.

Q. Have you anything different to offer to the Commission or anything that would be of information to it, or can you suggest any change in the mode of working which would be beneficial to the men working in the mines? A. I think the last gentleman gave it here pretty fully. The biggest grievance we have to-day is about this walking down to our work and walking up from it. I believe we should have a ride up and down.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are you able to form an opinion as to the number of days you have worked during this past year? A. No.

Q. Are you able to give us an opinion as to the actual amount of your earnings during the last year? A. No, I don't think I could do so. I suppose it run over \$300 or about \$400.

Q. How much can you earn when you work a full day? A. You would average from \$1.75 to \$2.00 a day.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you own a property of your own? A. No.

Q. Are you married? A. I am.

Q. Do you hire a tenement? A. Yes.

Q. Who from? A. The company.

Q. What do you pay a month for it? A. \$2.00.

Q. How many rooms are there in your place? A. Three.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Is that three rooms besides a kitchen? A. Besides a porch, including the kitchen.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you pay taxes? A. Yes; poor, county and school taxes.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Do you consider \$2 a month a high rent? A. It is not very high, but still I believe some improvements could be made on the houses.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Are they cold? A. They are cold enough.

Q. What does the company charge for coal—you buy your coal from the company? A. Yes.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Do they charge the miners for the coal supplied them? A. Yes.

Q. How much? A. 75 cents per load.

Q. Do you know if other coal companies supply their miners with coal only that they have to pay for the hauling of it? A. Not that I am aware of.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Did you ever work in any other mine? A. Yes.

Q. Where? A. In Cape Breton.

Q. What is the difference in the cost of cutting coal there and here per box? A. There is a difference in the coal, the workings are different altogether here from what they are there; of course I never dug coal, but I worked in the pits.

Q. In what mine did you work? A. In what they call the old Lingan, and in the Blockhouse pits.

Q. It is more difficult to mine here than in those mines, that is in the Lingan and the Blockhouse mines? A. The coal is harder to mine here than there, at least those that have worked them say it is.

Q. Do those who have worked in all those mines say there was a difference in the price paid? A. I guess there is a difference in the price.

Q. More here than it is in Cape Breton? A. In some parts it is higher here and in some other parts it is lower.

Q. Do you know if the prices paid in the other mines would average less than the prices paid here? A. No; I forget what it is there.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. What loss of time do you think would occur if they took the men down in the mornings in the cars? A. I do not think it would be any loss at all to the company, for this reason that they generally have to run down the rakes empty every morning but if you go in them as they are now you risk your life but if there was proper riding cars then if anything did happen you would stand a chance of saving your life.

Q. Then it would be a certain amount of expense to the managers or owners of the mine to put them down? A. Not much more, it would be a little more of course, they have such cars in other pits and I guess this company is as rich as any of them.

Q. Would it be a saving of anything else other than a saving of your strength? A. I think that would be a great deal itself, you could work with a bigger heart, you would not feel sick as you do now after travelling some 2,000 feet perhaps.

Q. Is the travelling road a gradual slope? A. Yes; and just high enough to keep you from striking the roof, that is all.

Q. Are there any supports to aid you in going up? A. No.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Suppose you slipped on one of the steps would you go to the bottom? A. No; you would go naturally on your back until a step stopped you.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Do you know if any accident ever happened in those place? A. If a man watches himself there is no danger—there has been no serious accident.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Do you know if any accident has happened from men riding in the rakes? A. They won't let you ride except on the regular rake.



By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Did you ever see the manager or any one connected with the management with reference to riding down? A. Yes; from time to time.

Q. And what was his answer? A. That he would see what plan he could devise for a riding rake; that was some years ago, but still the rake has not come yet. If we ask him to let us ride down on these rakes he says he would not be responsible.

Q. If you choose to run the risk of riding down he would not be responsible for you in going down? A. I do not think I would be responsible if I told you what the risk was.

Q. Did he find objection to the men going down on the rakes? A. Yes.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Where you were in the other mines there are separate shafts and slopes for conveyance? A. Yes; I guess there are in all the mines and through Pictou.

Q. They have a rake made on purpose for travelling on the slope? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Would there be any greater danger to miners riding up and down than there would be to visitors? A. Not as much I think. That is one thing that visitors have an advantage over miners in; of course when they feel inclined to go down they get a rake and we have to walk it.

SPRINGHILL, 14th April, 1888.

WILLIAM HALL, manager Springhill Mines, sworn and examined.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. You are the general manager of this mining company? A. Yes.

Q. How long have you held this position? A. Something over fourteen years.

Q. How many men are employed by the company at present? A. A little over 1,400, men and boys.

Q. How many men have the company underground and how many above? A. About 1,050 underground.

Q. Has the broken time been greater during the past year than in ordinary years or has it been less? A. Do you mean the present year, 1888?

Q. For the year just past now? A. Last year the lost time was not much at all, but this present year it has been.

Q. That is since January? A. Yes; it is not so bad now as it has been.

Q. Can you give the Commission any idea of the average loss of time—that is during which the mine has been wholly shut down in one year? A. About ten days wholly shut down.

Q. And when the mine is runing, could you give us any idea of the time that it is partially shut down, that is when one of the slopes may be closed? A. I could not just give it exactly, but something pretty near it. I can give it later if it is desired.

Q. Would it be possible to prepare those figures and have them forwarded to the Commission? A. Yes.

Q. You will have that done? A. Yes; I will.

Q. Could you tell us in those figures about what would be the average time that a miner could work if he were well and everything favorable? A. Yes; I can do that.

Q. You could not tell us just off-hand? A. No; that is a question it is hard to give a correct answer to, but I should think there were 700 days lost last summer in a thousand men.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. That they themselves lost, but in which there was plenty of work for them? A. Yes; I can give you the accurate figures from the books in the office.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Could you give us the total figures and the actual earnings of coal cutters, divided by the day's work put in, and also the same as to each class of operatives in the employ of the company? A. No; I cannot give that exactly, but will do so approximately.

Q. In the figures to be prepared and forwarded you could do so exactly? A. Yes.

Q. Is it very frequently the case that a man goes into the mine and remains there all day, but in consequence of the difficulty in getting away his coal he would not be able to put in a day's work? A. No; it has been during the past few months.

Q. Has it been more frequent during the past two months than in ordinary times? A. Yes.

Q. Very much more? A. Yes; very much more.

Q. Is this due to the inability of the company to supply cars for all the men employed or is it due to the fact that at the mouth of the pit they cannot get the coal away? A. They cannot get cars to take the coal away on the railroads.

Q. When a man goes to his work—a coal cutter—and it is impossible for the company to get the coal away, would it not be better to notify him of the fact so that he might enjoy himself above ground if he cannot work to advantage below? A. I do not know about that; he knows there is something wrong when he cannot get his coal away, he will know something is not going on right.

Q. Are the men working down there below ground required to walk up and down the slope? A. A good number do it, about half do ride up.

Q. Under what circumstances are they permitted to ride? A. You saw the box on the top of the pit—they are permitted to ride in that; we have nothing else at present.

Q. Are they permitted to ride in those boxes when they are employed for bringing up coal? A. No.

Q. You think one-half ride up? A. Fully one-half or more.

Q. Do these ride from the furthest levels? A. No, all from the 1,300 and 800 feet level.

Q. Would the expense to the company be very great to provide at all the slopes facilities for riding up and down? A. No.

Q. It would not be very great? No.

Q. Would the expense of operating it be very great? A. No; it would not. The only trouble is that I could not guarantee safer riding than I can in the coal box; if I could other means would have been provided. I cannot see any means of stopping the rakes provided a chain broke, which happens occasionally, and should such a thing happen I have no means or know of none by which a car could be stopped before going to the bottom. I have been making enquiries the last four or five months to see if I could get anything to stop the cars from running back.

Q. Would not an automatic brake such as there is on hoisting gears serve the purpose? A. I could not say so. I have been trying those things, but I cannot guarantee more safety than with what we have.

Q. Are not the men hauled up and down in coal mines as a rule? A. In some they are and in some they are not.

Q. Would not the facilities provided in these mines be applicable to your mine? A. Yes; perhaps.

Q. Have accidents occurred to the hoisting apparatus in those other mines? A. There is hardly a mine in which accidents do not happen at some time.

Q. In the hoisting apparatus I mean? A. I have not heard of any.

Q. What is the age of the youngest boy employed in the mine? A. Well, perhaps about eleven and a-half years is about the youngest, between that and twelve.

Q. Have you any limit below which you will not employ boys? A. Nothing under 10.

Q. Is there any law of which you are aware in the province fixing the age below which boys shall not be employed? A. From 10 to 12, that is what the law says.

Q That they may be employed from 10 to 12? A. Yes. Though we do not employ any of 10 as we know of.

Q. What employment do you give those boys between 10 and 12? A. What we call trapping doors—opening doors upon the levels.

Q. This work is not hard work? A. No.

Q. It requires their constant attention? A. Yes; it requires constant attendance.

Q. What would be the consequences if the boys were to neglect their work? A. In some places it might be the means of a door being left open and the air would get foul were it in a place where men were.

Q. Have such mishaps ever happened in your mine? A. No.

Q. If you found a door opened when it should be closed, what would be the consequences to the boy? A. We generally punish him some way.

Q. Do you fine him? A. No; I would threaten him that if he did it again he would be put off the ground altogether.

Q. Would you whip him? A. No; we do not whip them.

Q. Do you know if any of the foremen whip the boys? A. No; not as I am aware of.

Q. You would object to it if you heard of a foreman beating a boy? A. Most certainly I would not.

Q. Why not? A. Because I think a whipping does him more good than discharging him or turning off the work; at times it does not look well, but many a good lashing and a good whipping I got in the pit, and I believe in it, though we do not do it, as I stated.

Q. When the young boys come to you do they come of their own notion or do their parents with them? A. Sometimes the parents come, very seldom a boy comes himself.

Q. Do you think the parents of the boys between 10 and 12 require their earnings? A. Yes.

Q. If a man in your employ has an average family are not his wages able to educate his children till they get at least a good common English education? A. There is always one left at home to look after that, and if that one does not pull with the man and as he does, he may pull and never get ahead.

Q. What is the average school education of children between 10 and 12 that you have to do with? A. Generally very fair.

Q. Have you good schools here? A. We have very fair.

Q. What do you think is about the age at which the children generally quit school? A. About 13 or something like that, some go till 14 or 15. Those who can afford to do it keep their boys there as long as they can; it is only those who cannot afford to keep them that put them to work at a younger age.

Q. As a general rule they put their boys into the mine? A. Yes.

Q. If they want to go to anything else they must leave the place? A. We have nothing else in the company.

Q. No facilities for learning a trade? A. There is not very much here.

Q. Do you think many of the miners save money? A. Quite a few.

Q. As a rule do they buy property or put their money into the savings bank or do they invest it other ways? A. There has been quite a large number who have bought property and are making very good use of their money.

Q. When they buy property and partially pay for it can they get the remainder from the building society or do they get the whole from the society? A. I do not know anything of their business in that respect, but if they buy the land from the company they pay for it in instalments as they can afford it.

Q. Do any of the men buy land from the company and find themselves unable to pay for it so that it devolves again to the company? A. I have known a case.

Q. Give us some idea of the number who have bought property from the company? A. Probably 150.



Q. And they have all paid or are in the process of paying for it? A. Some have paid and some have not.

Q. Do they meet their payments promptly? A. They are very well in that respect.

Q. Not very many have to ask for an extension of time? A. No.

Q. Of the proportion who buy lots what proportion have put houses on them? A. Very few indeed have not put houses on them.

Q. How many houses for the use of miners do the company own? A. I think about 63 or 64 blocks is all that we have.

Q. That is 63 or 64 tenements? A. No, double.

Q. That would be about 120 tenements? A. Something like that.

Q. About how many rooms in each tenement? A. Three, four and five in some of them.

Q. What would be the rent per month for a tenement with three rooms in it? A. \$2 a month.

Q. And for those with four rooms? A. \$2.50 a month.

Q. For those with five rooms? A. That is the same; there is no difference.

Q. Give us an idea of the cost to the company for erecting one of these houses? A. About \$600 a block.

Q. That is for two tenements? A. Yes; that is something very close to it.

Q. Is that independent of the land? A. Yes.

Q. When a miner rents one of those tenements, does he have to pay the taxes or do the company pay them? A. The company pay the taxes.

Q. You do not know the amount the miners put into the savings bank? A. No.

Q. Nor have you any knowledge as to what other investments they may make? A. No; I never enquire into their business at all.

Q. You have a good class of men here? A. Yes; I could not desire better.

Q. Are they generally Nova Scotians? A. One-half is Scotch and the other half are mixed; there are all kinds—Irish, English, Frenchmen, Italians and every kind working here.

Q. Did the company ever bring any large number of miners from any other place? A. No; we did two or three or four years ago, I think, try to bring some down from Cape Breton, but we did not get any; we had a man there trying to get some.

Q. Did you ever make any arrangement for the importation of miners from Great Britain or from the continent? A. No; never did.

Q. Nor from the United States? A. No.

Q. Did you ever need a large number at one time? A. No.

Q. Have you any objection to employing men who belong to or who hold any positions in labor organizations? A. No.

A. None at all? A. No.

Q. Do you ever question them as to whether they belong to such unions or not? A. No; I never have asked a man that yet.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Did you say you have had 700 days lost time in a month? A. Yes; we have had that.

Q. Did you ever think that was a low average for 1,400, as it only means half a day for each man per month? A. I think it is rather much.

Q. That would be six days per man per year? A. I have 1,400 men and boys working in the pit and I have sometimes sixty men off, and I think that is a pretty big loss.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you not think that some provision might be made for carrying the tools to the men, the picks, drills and all necessary things of that sort? A. Yes.

Q. After the day's work, as I understand, many of them have to carry them up too? A. If they are not at the bottom of the pit—but when the day's work is done

everything is carried up for them and when not which does not frequently happen. We have a few men working at night, just as few as we can do with.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. What would be the greatest output in one day? A. The greatest in one day 2,012 tons.

Q. How many tons were taken from the mines last year? A. 443,000 or 444,000 tons.

Q. Has the price of coal increased within the last five years? A. There have been many changes in that time and at times many changes in one year.

Q. Is it higher or lower now? A. I could not say about that.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Mr. Kerwin is speaking of the selling price by the company—their prices do not fluctuate do they? A. Yes; and now one of the managers is away making contracts at Montreal and he has to make prices suitable to both parties.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. You do not know whether it is higher or lower than last year? A. No.

Q. Have miners' wages increased during the past five years? A. I think they are a little higher now than eight years ago; I would not say as to five years ago—there is not a great deal of difference any way.

Q. Do you know the amount of the pay roll per month? A. \$17,000, \$19,000 and sometimes \$20,000.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Do you supply the miners with coal? A. Yes.

Q. What do you charge them for a ton? A. They are charged 72 cents or 74 cents a load.

Q. That includes the hauling? A. Yes.

Q. Has it ever been given free except the hauling? A. No.

Q. Do you know if it is the custom of other mines to do so? A. No; I do not know.

Q. When a miner sends up coal dirty or slack what is done here? A. If a good deal of stone we dock it.

Q. What becomes of the coal? A. It goes with the rest; the company gets it.

Q. Do you not think it would be a good idea to let it be supplied to the house? A. They would not like it themselves.

Q. Supposing it was screened? A. We could not do that kind of thing.

Q. Do you not think that the miners should be entitled to some part of it? A. It depends upon circumstances; I am of opinion that he is not because we do not dock it only when necessary—there has to be a good deal of dross in it before it is docked and I think it makes the men more careful as they know the rule of the mine and they will send clean coal and I do not think they would be particular if only a few pounds were taken off each box that way.

Q. Who is the judge of the quality? A. I have a man at each pit. There are quite a number to look at it and I spend a good deal of time myself at it and it is not for a small quantity of stone it is docked; there has to be a good deal of it.

Q. Has any accident ever happened in those tunnels from men travelling along them? A. No; not as I know of.

Q. Are there men specially detailed to give warning to persons entering the tunnels? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever known any accident to happen in one of those tunnels or any of the men's limbs injured? A. Not that I know of.

Q. If any accident of that kind were to happen whose fault would it be? A. It depends upon circumstances; we have a governing rule to work by and we make holes every 50 or 60 feet, or less if the place is not wide, so as to permit men to stand in; we are making these holes now in the tunnels; they are in the levels.

Q. Has any accident ever happened in the travelling ways? A. Not that I am aware of.

Q. It is pretty hard to walk down there, is it not? A. Yes; it is a hard walk.

Q. Do you think it is weakening on the miners to have to go down this to work? A. It is very hard walking up indeed, but I do not know it is so hard walking down.

Q. Do you not think that a railing would be an assistance? A. I do not know.

Q. You said that you had some means under consideration of raising them from the pit? A. Yes; it is a box for the men to ride in.

Q. If they enter the rakes they do so, I understand, at their own risk? A. Yes; they will do so, then they always enter at their own risk, and the chain being good it is not at my risk.

Q. Are the ropes tested at any particular times? A. The ropes are examined every day.

Q. Have you ever noticed the rope giving way suddenly—say it was examined to-day and gave way to-morrow? A. No; I have not.

Q. You do not import miners from the old country? A. No.

Q. Do miners from the old country come here? A. Yes.

Q. Very frequently? A. Yes.

Q. Do you find them to be a better class of miners than those from Nova Scotia? A. No.

Q. Would you prefer Nova Scotia miners to old country miners? A. I do not know there is any difference—I think they are all alike.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. If a man does his work that is all you look at? A. Yes.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. There are a number of miners who rent houses from the company—do you consider the rentals high or are they moderate? A. I think the rentals are moderate and fair.

Q. Do you in any way assist the miners to build their houses? A. No; we do not. We have in one or two cases, but we do not make a business of it.

Q. Do you not think it would give them a standing in the place? A. Miners are queer people; you do not know them. For my part I would like them to have a comfortable home, and I have devoted my time to get them comfortable homes, but so far as the company assisting them is concerned I do not know whether it would be beneficial or not. We have done it for one or two, but no more than that.

Q. Do you think if it were possible to have more cars supplied that the men could get their coals more quickly away? A. Yes.

Q. Whose fault is it? A. It is the I.C.R. who do not own cars enough, or else they are shut up by blockades on the line.

Q. Could you give the number of boys employed in the mines? A. Well, I think in the three mines we have 160 perhaps.

Q. Do you know or could you discover any means by which you can tell if they can read and write when they enter the mines? A. All I know can read and write, every one of them.

Q. Do they work as long as the miners? A. The boys as a general rule work ten hours a day.

Q. There is no rule laid down making a regular time for working? A. No; we have always been in the habit of working ten hours; every coal mine is ten hours; there is I think a law in England that boys should work eight hours, but I do not think it is carried out; the boys there stop ten hours; I do not know whether the law there is ever enforced; I may say it is the law here, but it is never complied with.

Q. How many hours on the average do miners work? A. I should think they work on an average in the neighborhood of eight hours a day; I think some work a good deal less and some considerably longer.



Q. Do you approve of the eight hour system? A. Yes; I consider it long enough for a man to work in a coal mine.

Q. Do you think a man working eight hours can do as much as he can in ten hours? A. It depends upon the man, some are stronger and can hold out longer.

Q. Generally speaking what do you think they can do? A. If they cannot work it out in eight hours they cannot in ten.

Q. To whom do the officials report in the morning? A. There is a book in which the manager enters his report and I see it.

Q. The boys you employ to whom are they responsible? A. That is the trappers—they are responsible to a man who is looking after them every day.

Q. Is there a person to see that they do not leave their work? A. Yes; there is a man walking backward and forwards all the time.

Q. Supposing they are careless and leave their post what reprimand would you give them? A. It would depend upon the damage caused; a horse might be killed by going against a door and we punish him and that is about all we can do.

Q. If a horse is killed in some way by the driver, is the driver responsible for it? A. It just depends on how it happens; if it is through his own neglect we discharge him.

Q. You do not charge him with the cost of the horse? A. No.

Q. Do you know if that is done in other mines? A. I do not know; I do not think it.

Q. Supposing a miner is hurt is there any provision made by the company for the assistance of himself or his family? A. We have a relief fund here; the men are all in it and the company puts in fifty per cent. on the amount collected from the men every month; that is all the relief the men have. They get from \$2.60 a week to \$4.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. The men are paid according to the thickness and hardness of the coal I presume? A. Yes.

Q. What is the lowest price a man gets for cutting a ton of coal? A. 25 cents a box is what we pay.

Q. How much is there in a box? A. 1,650 pounds.

Q. What is the highest price you pay? A. I suppose it comes up to 80 cents a box.

Q. How do you regulate the price—just by personal inspection? A. Yes.

Q. The men have no say in the matter? A. Yes; they have a great deal to say in the matter and they do not be long telling you about it either.

Q. Is the price by consultation? A. I fix the price with them as a general rule.

Q. And this is done after consultation with the men? A. Yes.

Q. And the prices are arranged with the men and the work so as to get as near as possible all on an equality in their earnings? A. That is what we try to do.

Q. Does it bring about pretty near that result? A. Yes; it does.

Q. When pay day comes you find that the cutters actually earn about the same amount of money? A. No; they never do that, all the same.

Q. You have never been able to achieve that result? A. No; and never will.

Q. Is there any favoritism shown by sending certain men into the best positions? A. No; I do not think it.

Q. Would you approve of that were it done? A. No; I would try to give one man as good a show as another.

Q. So that if there is any difference in their earnings it would be due to the difference in the men themselves or from circumstances over which you have no control? A., Yes.

Q. About how many lives have been lost in the mine since you came here? A. I could not give you the figures, I am sure.

Q. Give us the figures during the past year? A. We had six killed this last year. We had two killed outside and four underground.

Q. What killed these men underground? A. By falling coal I think, most of them.

Q. Was this fall of coal preventable? A. No.

Q. If any miner were to think a place dangerous would you have the danger removed as far as practicable? A. Yes; certainly.

Q. Do they frequently report that they think a part of the mine is in a dangerous condition? A. No; there is not much of that.

Q. If they did report does some competent person go at once and inspect the place? A. We have a man continually inspecting the place.

Q. Have you ever had any explosions from fire damp? A. Yes.

Q. Serious? A. No; nothing serious.

Q. No lives lost? A. No; we never had a life lost, but we had a man who was burnt and died afterwards—that was some years ago.

Q. Is that the only accident you can remember? A. Yes; we had one in September last, but nothing serious.

Q. Do the horses you employ underground live as long as those above ground? A. Yes; sometimes longer. I do not believe that pit horses have to work any harder.

Q. Do the drivers treat them well? A. Yes; they are generally very good to their horses and the horses are good and are generally pretty well looked after and well groomed.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. When a man contracts to cut coal does it run over a certain period? A. No; there are no time contracts.

Q. It just runs from ton to ton? A. Or we pay him so much a box, according to the hardness or softness of the place.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. When a man is cutting coal does he know what he is going to get for it? A. Yes; always.

Q. If you make any change in the pay you notify him of it? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Have the company any stores of their own on which the men get orders? A. No; we have no stores; all the stores we have is that the men get a little oil and powder sometimes.

Q. Do you not think a co-operative store among the men would be more beneficial to them; they could get all their things in a cheaper way and so live at a cheaper or at a better rate, I mean now household goods, &c.? A. That is a thing I understand, but the men would not deal with such a store; they do not go into that kind of thing. There is no doubt such a store would be of great benefit to the men, but as long as they do not believe in it they won't do it.

Q. Did you ever speak to them of the benefits to be derived from such a co-operation? A. We had them here—two of them.

Q. What was the cause of their not being continued? A. I do not know exactly the reason of their stoppage—they know best themselves; they had some reason for it and for giving them up.

Q. You generally find the men sober and industrious? A. Yes.

Q. Are their habits good? A. Yes; pretty good.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Do you know if the building society erects houses for the men here? A. I do not know anything about that; the men build houses, but how they build them I could not say.

Q. Is there any private person around here owning several houses? A. There are men here who have built three, four and five houses and rent them.

Q. Do they charge more for rent than the company? A. Yes; a great deal more.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. When you find a young man or an old man in your employ who is anxious to get along in the world, do you try and assist him if possible? A. Yes; I do.

Q. And if he came to you and wanted assistance to build a house would you assist him? A. I might if I thought well of him.

Q. It would depend upon circumstances and as to what you thought of him? A. Yes.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Are the officials here natives of the place? A. Some are, but it is more than I could tell you where they came from.

Q. You never made enquiries where they came from? A. I could not say; I know some are natives of Cape Breton and some of England and Scotland may be, but as long as they suit the business I do not mind their nationality.

The following is the statement promised:—

Average wages for mines for September, 1887; we have three slopes:—

North slope, average.....	\$2 03 $\frac{1}{2}$	per day.
West slope do .....	2 12 $\frac{1}{2}$	do
East slope do .....	2 05 $\frac{1}{2}$	do

Average wages for December:—

East slope, average.....	\$2 15	per day.
West slope do .....	1 92 $\frac{1}{2}$	do
North slope do .....	1 85 $\frac{3}{4}$	do

Total day's labor 315,911; persons employed 1,133; average number of days worked by each person employed 279 days.

Pits worked 275 days.

Pits idle 38 days—public holidays 10 days.

The men lost a great many days during the summer months of their own accord. In July, August, September and October there were from 300 to 500 days lost of one man.

This is all the information I can give you at present which is of any note.

Yours very truly,

WM. HALL,  
*Manager.*

EDGAR HARRISON, coal cutter, sworn and examined.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How long have you been at this business? A. Seven years.

Q. Did you ever work in any other mine before coming here? A. No.

Q. You heard the testimony given by the other gentlemen last night? A. I was not here last night.

Q. You heard the last gentleman? A. Yes.

Q. Is there anything you could add to that or is there any information you could give the Commission that would be of benefit to the men? A. No.

Q. What is your average pay per month—what number of days do you work on the average per month? A. I work every day generally that I can get work.

Q. Is there any month in which you did work 25 days? A. Yes.

Q. What month or months would that be? A. I would say I worked 25 days last September.

Q. About what would you make in each one of those days? A. Taking an average about \$1.60 or \$1.65 a day for the last year.

Q. While you might make \$2 some days you would make less on others? A. Yes.



By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Do you know of any foreign miners coming here to work? A. Sometimes men come here.

Q. They are not given the preference before the men here? A. No; not that I know of.

Q. Do they generally stay here any length of time or do they move off? A. Some settle here.

Q. Are they as a general rule as industrious and as sober as the residents or are they more so? A. They are generally just about the same.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How do you find the habits of the men, are they sober and industrious? A. Most of them.

Q. Do they use much profane language? A. Not a great deal; some of the men of course do, but as a body of men there is not a great deal of it.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Is there any temperance organization here? A. Yes; there is.

Q. Do the men generally avail themselves of it? A. I believe some do.

Q. Do the management generally advise the people to be abstemious? A. Yes; they do.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. This is pay day? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think most of the men are sober men? A. Yes.

Q. Are many disposed to rush round looking for liquor? A. There are some of course. For a large crowd of men there are not many who do so.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. You have no information you can possibly give this Commission other than what we have heard; you have no complaints to make against the managers or the men? A. No.

Q. They are generally careful of you? A. Yes.

ROBERT McTAGARTH, aged 13, employed at Spring Hill mines, sworn and examined.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How long have you been working in these mines? A. Two years.

Q. How old are you? A. 13 next August.

Q. Have you been working all the time? A. Yes.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. Eight and ten.

Q. What time do you go down in the morning? A. 7 o'clock.

Q. What time do you come up? A. 3 o'clock.

Q. Do you take your lunch with you? A. Yes.

Q. What are you doing now? A. Driving.

Q. How long have you been driving? A. About three weeks.

Q. What were you doing before that? A. Going around with the fire box.

Q. What before that? A. That was the first job I was at.

Q. What did you get at first? A. \$15 a month.

Q. What do you get now? A. Sixty cents a day.

Q. What do you do with your money? A. I give it to my mother.

Q. Have you a father? A. Yes.

Q. Is he in the mines? A. Yes.

Q. Did he want you to work there? A. Yes.

Q. Did you want to work there yourself, or would you rather go to school? A. I would rather work in the pit.

Q. How many times have you been whipped since you were down there ? A. Not at all

Q. Have you been scolded very often ? A. Not often.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Have you ever been scolded ? A. I have been.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Do you find yourself tired after your day's work is over ? A. No.

Q. Have you ever been hurt driving the horses ? A. No.

Q. Do you think you are capable of driving any kind of horses underground ?  
A. Yes; I think so.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you have to feed the horses ? A. No; there are stable men.

Q. Have you to walk up and down ? A. Yes.

Q. Do you feel tired after it ? A. Sometimes.

By Mr. KEELY:—

Q. Do you ever get a ride on the rakes ? A. Yes.

Q. Do they ever find any fault with you or have they any objection to your riding on the rakes ? A. No; only when the ropes are bad.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. You would not get on yourself when the ropes are bad, would you ? A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Can you read and write ? A. Yes.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. How many years did you go to school ? A. When on the night shift I used to go to school too.

By Mr. HAGGARTY:—

Q. Is there any night school here ? A. No.

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WILLIAM TERRACE sworn and examined.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How long have you been working in the mines ? A. Five years.

Q. How old are you now ? A. Fifteen on the 21st day of last February.

Q. What did you do when you first went into the mine ? A. Turn the fan.

Q. How long were you at that ? A. About four months.

Q. What did you get ? A. 45 cents a day.

Q. What are you doing now ? A. Driving.

Q. How long have you been driving ? A. Three years past.

Q. What pay do you get ? A. 70 cents a day.

Q. When you first went driving what did you get ? A. 55 cents.

Q. It has increased from time to time ? A. Yes.

By Mr. HAGGARTY:—

Q. What is the highest wages paid drivers ? A. \$1.25.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Did you ask for an increase ? A. Yes.

Q. Was your increase given to you voluntarily ? A. I asked for it.

Q. Who gave it to you ? A. Mr. Swift.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. You live with your parents ? A. Yes.

Q. You give them your money ? A. Yes.

Q. Is your father working in the mine ? A. Yes.

Q. How many brothers and sisters have you ? A. Three brothers and five sisters.

Q. Do any of your brothers work in the mine ? A. Yes,

Q. Younger than you ? A. Yes.

Q. How long have you been to school ? A. About four years.

Q. Can you read and write pretty well ? A. Not much.

By Mr. HAGGERTY :—

Q. The boy who drives for sixty cents a day, or for seventy cents, all do the same work ? A. Yes.

Q. Why do they pay different wages to them ? A. I do not know. Some are bigger than others.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q. Perhaps the boy who gets seventy cents has been working longer at it than the boy getting sixty cents ? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. Do the over men ever beat or strike you ? A. No.

Q. Do they scold you ? A. Sometimes they do.

Q. Do they ever swear at you ? A. Sometimes the roadsman does.

Q. I suppose they do not until you require it ? A. When you are blocking the road.

By Mr. HAGGERTY :—

Q. If one gets off the road who assists you on ? A. The roadsman, I have to do my own empty ones.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. Do full cars get off the road sometimes ? A. Sometimes they do, and sometimes there is none get off.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Are the miners as a rule generally kind to you ? A. Yes ; they are.

By Mr. HAGGERTY :—

Q. The roads are always in good condition for the drivers ? A. Yes ; good.

Q. If you had to report a road for being out of condition to whom would you report ? A. Just tell the roadsman.

Q. And he attends to it at once ? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. Do you usually speak to the roadsman when you find the road out of order ? A. Yes.

Q. Should you find any of the ties out you generally report to him ? A. Yes.

Q. You have no complaints to make against any of the regulations in the pit ? A. No.

Q. You have no fault to find with the overmen or anyone else around ? A. No.

Q. Do you like the work ? A. Yes.

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HENRY REA, coal cutter, sworn and examined.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. You heard the evidence given last evening by the several gentlemen ? A. I did.



Q. Do you agree with the evidence given by them? A. Partly.

Q. Be kind enough to state what part you do not concur in? A. In regards to the pay miners were making. One stated he made \$2 a day and over; I do not think that that is anything like an average, I should think \$1.60 would be nearer the average according to my own pay and my judgment.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Is that the average for each day or for the year round? A. For the year round.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Can you get work every day the year round? A. No; we lose a good deal of time—I mean by that for the days we work.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. It would not average more than \$1.60 for the days you were working? A. No.

Q. Not speaking of the time lost at all? A. Not counting the time lost at all. In February I worked seventeen and a half days and received \$1.72 per day. In March I worked 12 days and received 97½ cents per day. In April I worked 13 days and received \$1.52 a day—that was all the time I could get, I worked all the time I could get work.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Then in April you have worked every day so far? A. That goes back, that is up to the time that bill (producing memorandum) is made up for a month back, and you see from it I received that bill to-day.

Q. The work since January has been more dull than in ordinary times, has it not? A. Well, yes; it has been duller, although last winter I can't say it was much better if any.

Q. Could you give us any idea of your actual earnings in 1877? A. No; I could not just off-hand, of course if I had taken a little pains I could have done it, but I did not take care of my scrips.

Q. How many years have you been cutting coal? A. 26 years.

Q. Take the last 7 or 8 years, do you think you have earned \$500 a year? A. No.

Q. Would \$450 cover the actual money you received? A. Well, I would not like to make that statement, as I do not know; I might have made \$400 or \$450.

Q. But it was somewhere along there? A. I should judge so.

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. Do you own the house you reside in? A. Yes.

Q. How long were you in earning the money which paid for that house? A. Well, if I had no help but myself I think it would take me a good long spell, because I think for a man with any family it is just as much as he can do, if he has an ordinary family, to live.

Q. You had some boys working had you? A. Yes.

Q. At what age did your boys go to work in the mine? A. Somewhere about twelve or between that and thirteen.

Q. You kept them at school did you as long as you could? A. Not as long as I should have liked, but they felt as if they would sooner work than go to school; they were not doing much at school so I let them go in.

Q. They would rather be at work in the mine than at school? A. Yes.

Q. Can you give us any idea as to whether the ordinary necessities of life are dearer here than in Halifax? A. Dearer I should say, to the best of my knowledge.

Q. Do you know what granulated sugar costs? A. About nine cents.

Q. Do you know the price of roast beef and of steak? A. Yes; from 9 to 14 cents a pound.

Q. Do you buy bread or flour? A. Flour.

Q. What does flour cost? A. About \$5 50 a barrel

Q. What do potatoes cost here? A. I think they are about on an average of fifty cents a bushel.

Q. At the present time or in the fall? A. At the present time.

Q. You can get them cheaper in the fall I suppose? A. A little cheaper, not much.

Q. What do you pay for butter? A. It has been about from 20 to 21 cents a pound.

Q. This spring? A. That is in the winter along—that is by the tub.

Q. What do you pay for eggs now? A. I think eggs are down to about 15 cents a dozen at the present time.

Q. They are about as cheap now as at any time? A. Yes; there is very little difference.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. I notice on the bill you handed in "Minister subscription \$1.10"—is that paid by each man in the employ? A. That is a personal affair.

Q. How do you mean? A. To save all trouble the official in the office deducts whatever the men wish for the ministers and they draw it from the office.

Q. Supposing a man does not want to give it? A. He need not do so.

Q. It is your own voluntary contribution \$1.10 a year? A. Yes; I can give what I like.

Q. Whatever agreement the men may make with their ministers or parsons is handed in to the office and they pay them? A. Yes; the ministers hand in the list to the office of the persons subscribing and they deduct it and pay it over to the ministers.

Q. Have you any suggestions to make? A. There was some evidence I did not like altogether last night and I do not know whether it is out of place for me to mention it or not.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. State your own views on the matter? A. I heard some of the evidence as regards miners getting coal at 74 cents a load but that is only a part—I live not far from the pit and I pay about 88 cents a load.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How is it that you pay more than others? A. The company someway gave a contract around here to haul it and the place does not go beyond the west slope and a house 100 yards from the slope has to pay 15 cents more a load for the coal than a man on this side and they draw lines like this; it is an unfair thing. Another thing that was said was that the load was half or three-quarters of a ton, it is half a ton and they are not allowed to take more—it is 12 bushels of coal that is allowed. I say this for such misstatements are liable to mislead the public; it cannot hurt us.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Supposing a man built a house three-quarters of a mile from the pit should he get it at the same rate as the men living in close proximity to the pit? A. But he will haul a load of coal to the handiest house here and another to the furthest house up there for the same price, and here is another house right alongside the pit, but on the other side and much nearer to the pit than the other houses, and yet he charges 15 cents more and I say that is not fair.

Q. Have any of the gentlemen living around there complained to the manager about it? A. Yes.

Q. And nothing was done to remedy it? A. No; no remedy at all.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Does the company hire a person to deliver the coal? A. They make contracts for it.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. They specify in the contract what distance this coal shall be hauled at such a rate? A. Yes; it is a private contract they make with the parties.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Is there much coal hauled in the direction you live? A. Yes; a good deal.

Q. Are there many people living in that direction? A. Yes; somewhere about 100 houses I suppose.

MARK CONWAY, miner, sworn and examined.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How long have you been working in the mine? A. I am one year here and was three down in Cape Breton.

Q. How long have you worked in mines altogether? A. About four years.

Q. At about what age did you start mining? A. When I started first I was working at nine years of age for a year or two; then the mines stopped and I did not work at it any more for five or six years, and about four or five years ago I started again in the mines and have worked steady at it ever since.

Q. You are a coal cutter? A. Yes.

Q. You heard the testimony of the other gentlemen given here? A. Yes.

Q. Did you pay attention to it? A. Yes.

Q. Do you agree with the statements made? A. Yes.

Q. What would be your average earnings this last year? A. I do not think I have earned much over a dollar a day. I have some of my slips here.

Q. Does it often happen that you have such short time as you have had the past four months? A. No; I have had much more time, but I do not know that I made as much wages though.

Q. What was your average wages for January? A.  $15\frac{3}{4}$  days, \$23.27; February,  $12\frac{1}{2}$  days, \$14.12 cents a day; March,  $19\frac{1}{2}$  days, \$24.38; April, 15 days, \$19.63.

Q. I notice here on one of these slips "cash \$10.00," do you if you should call at the office and ask for cash in between pay days receive it? A. No; that is for the first fortnight and then what is left you get at the end of the month.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:

Q. Then your average would be about \$1.40? A. Yes; it has been a while back but not for all the work.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you consider that there are men working there who have had more experience than you? A. I consider that I can do just as much work.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:

Q. Do you think you could make more in Cape Breton? A. Yes; I could if I could get back, but I can't earn money enough to do so.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Perhaps you do not keep your money when you have earned it? A. No; I have a wife to keep and so cannot.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:

Q. Are there many men here who would prefer to live in Cape Breton? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think you could live more cheaply in Cape Breton than you can here? A. Yes.

Q. If you were in Cape Breton do you think you could get more work? A. No, none at all in winter except a few days, but in summer you can make enough to keep you all winter.



Q. In the summer months do you make more here than you could in Cape Breton? A. No; I do not.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. You have no complaint to make against the managers of the mine? A. No; I have not.

Q. They treat you well? A. Yes.

Q. You have had no trouble with them? A. No.

EBENEZER COSTLEY, loader, sworn and examined.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How long have you worked in the mine? A. Five months the 10th of this month.

Q. Have you ever worked in any other mine? A. No, not underground before.

Q. You are paid by the men, are you, or are you paid by the company? A. I am paid by the men who cut the coal; I get it, though, from the company, who stop it from the cutters' money.

Q. What proportional part of their pay do you get? A. They pay me so much a day.

Q. How much per day? A. \$1.30.

Q. Is that the usual sum paid helpers? A. \$1.25; they pay me \$1.30.

Q. Men are paid in that business what they are worth—if you are a good helper you are paid more than a poor one? A. I suppose so.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. Average about eight hours and sometimes I work ten hours.

Q. Could you tell us how many days you have worked since you have been employed here? A. Indeed I could not.

Q. What has been your monthly pay? A. I could hardly tell you.

Q. Take this last month, that for which you were paid to-day? A. (Handing in slip) fifteen and a half days, \$20.15, or \$1.30 per day.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. You subscribe, I see, to the minister? A. Yes.

Q. That is voluntary? A. Yes.

Q. And you pay towards the doctor thirty-five cents a month? A. Yes.

Q. Are you a married man? A. No.

Q. Do married men pay 45 cents? A. I do not know.

Q. Single men pay 35? A. I do not know what they pay, that is what I pay.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How long do you think you will be employed as a helper before you become sufficiently proficient to cut coal? A. I do not know how long.

Q. Do you ever get any instructions as to cutting? A. I get no instructions.

Q. You are kept pretty busy all day long, I suppose? A. Yes; kept pretty busy.

Q. Is it hard work? A. Middling hard work.

Q. Do you work at any time when the miners are not there? A. Yes; sometimes one hour and sometimes two or three hours; according to what time they have been on.

Q. According to the amount of work they have cut, is it? A. Sometimes I would have to stay till the pit knocked off as I could not get the coal off.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Do you know if a helper or loader pays over any of his money to the cutters? A. No; I do not know of any case. Of course I never made it my business to find out.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you have to pay for your oil out of that \$1.30 a day? A. Yes.

Q. How much does your oil cost in a month? A. It costs about 65 cents a month.

Q. You do not pay for anything else outside the oil? A. No; only just the oil and the lamp and whatever I take down with me.

AMHERST, 16th April, 1888.

JOHN F. PORTER, machinist and engineer, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How long have you been engaged in this line of business? A. Five years.

Q. Have you a certificate as engineer? No.

Q. Have you ever passed any special examination? A. No.

Q. What experience have you had in these matters? A. Worked at it, that is all.

Q. Under any other man? A. Yes; partly, for a short time only.

Q. You feel yourself thoroughly competent to take charge of an engine? A. I do.

Q. If you were in any other capacity or under other circumstances other than in the establishment you are in, do you think you could manage an engine? A. I do.

Q. Have you ever had any accident about the engine in the establishment you are now in? A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Did you have a practical knowledge of how to run an engine before you began on this one. A. No; I do not run them altogether; I make them and put them together, put them up and run them for a short time afterwards; I am only a repairer or I can put up new ones outside, but I am not an engineer as you mean it.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How long did you say you were at this business? A. I have been three years at the putting up of outside work and two years in the shop. I have been five years at the business altogether.

Q. Are you able to go through the various machines in the shop and take a turn at anything that comes in your way? A. I think so; I have never had any trouble that way as yet.

Q. Do you do any brass work? A. No; only as to brass work of the engines.

Q. What is your wages? A. \$10.50 a week.

Q. How many hours do you have to work? A. Ten hours.

Q. How frequently are you paid? A. Every Saturday night.

Q. In cash? A. Yes.

Q. In full? A. Yes; fully paid up.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. If you go out of the shop to work do you work the same hours? A. Yes; and any extra hours count extra.

Q. What time do you get for over time? A. One and a-half.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have you had any labor trouble in your shop? A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. What can you rent a fairly comfortable house for around Amherst? A. \$6 a month.

Q. How many rooms would there be in such a house? A. Five rooms and a cellar; that is what I paid when I rented a house, but I do not rent now.

Q. You own your own house? A. Yes.

Q. Can you tell us how long it will take you to pay for your house? A. It is hard to say if sickness comes, but if you pay straight it makes quite a difference.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you run all the year through? A. Yes.

Q. You do not shut down for repairs? A. Well, probably for a week, or something like that.

ALEXANDER BONNYMAN, machinist, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How long have you been employed as a machinist? A. Thirteen years.

Q. What does your work comprise specially; what kind of machines do you turn out? A. Mill machinery.

Q. Have you anything to do with lathes or planers? A. Yes; we have lathes and planers in the shop.

Q. Do you work at those? A. Not now.

Q. Do you have any work in regard to the building of engines? A. We do not do much, only repairing.

Q. What wages do you get? A. \$12.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. Ten.

Q. Is the wages you get the average for machinists in your shop? A. No.

Q. Do you mean they get higher? A. They get less.

Q. How much less? A. I do not know the wages of any of the other workers in the shop.

Q. You consider yourself fully competent to undertake any work that comes into the shop? A. I do not know that.

Q. Are you able to handle anything that comes in? A. I would have to in some way.

Q. Do you work after hours? A. I do sometimes.

Q. How are you paid for work you do after hours? A. We get one and a-half hours for an hour's work.

Q. Do you work very late at any time? A. Very seldom; sometimes we do in fixing up breakdowns.

Q. Are you required then to go to work the next morning? A. If you feel like it you can; it makes no difference.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How frequently are you paid? A. Every Saturday night.

Q. In cash and in full? A. Yes; in cash and in full.

Q. You are not required to take any groceries or anything of that kind? A. No; nothing.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you know if any of the men employed with you are in a comfortable position as regards their houses and families, or if they have houses of their own? A. Yes, there are quite a number of married men, and most of them are comfortable, as far as I know; a few have their own houses.

Q. How many do you think? A. I could not just say now.

Q. How many men in the establishment altogether? A. I think there are 81 on the roll.

Q. You consider most of them to be in comfortable circumstances? A. Yes; I think they are all in comfortable circumstances.

Q. Have you ever had any labor troubles in your establishment? A. Never to my knowledge.



Q. How long have you worked in that establishment? A. Seven years and a half.

By Mr. KIRWIN:—

Q. Did you ever work on Sunday? A. Twice that I remember of.

Q. How were you paid for that work? A. Time and a half.

Q. The same as if you worked at night? A. Yes; it is very seldom we are worked on Sunday; it has to be in extraordinary cases.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Are there many boys among this number of men? A. Yes; quite a few boys.

Q. What class do they go under, apprentices? A. Yes; as apprentices.

Q. Are they indentured? A. No.

Q. I mean are they bound? A. No; there is no written agreement.

Q. They just come in and work there? A. Yes; they are four years in the shop; they can leave before their time is up, and there is nothing about it.

Q. Do many of them finish their time and learn to be fair mechanics? A. Mostly all do.

Q. Do the firm see and take pains that they are taught the business straight out? A. Some; he tries to see that they get a fair show.

Q. What do they get the first year? A. \$3 a week the first year.

Q. And it is increased gradually each year until the term is finished? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do any of the boys remain afterwards as journeymen in the shop? A. Yes; quite a few.

Q. You do not know how many? A. No.

NATHANIEL CURRY, firm of Rhodes, Curry & Co., sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. In what industry are you employed here? A. In the manufacture of building materials; doors, sashes, &c. We are builders and general contractors.

Q. How long have you been engaged in this industry here? A. 11 years in this place.

Q. Has your business increased or is it increasing now to what it was, say 8 to 10 years ago? A. That is soon after I started business—yes, it has.

Q. How many men do you employ at the present time, or if you have not the average number of men working now what is your average and what has it been during the past three or four years? A. At present we have only 70 men on the pay roll, but I may say that in a month from now we will have more than double that number, probably 150 or 160 or more. I know that last summer we had on the pay roll on an average very near 200 men.

Q. What would be the average number for the past two years say? A. About 140 I suppose or something like that; that of course you will understand includes the building trades inside and outside and all that.

Q. You are engaged in all the branches of this particular industry, please give us, taking your inside hands first, your cabinet makers or those men you have specially for finishing work, what do they get a day? A. \$10 to \$12 a week; quite a number get \$12.

Q. What do your ordinary bench hands get? A. I suppose the average would be about \$10.50

Q. Do your machinists or wood turners or any of those men taking special places around the machinery get anything extra? A. \$2 a day is about as much as any of them get; that of course don't count in foremen, foremen get more.

Q. How much more do foremen or men in charge of jobs get? A. \$3 our shop foremen.

Q. What do the ordinary carpenters get? A. From \$8 to \$12 a week, \$10 is about the average.

Q. Have you any boys working around your place? A. Yes; I think we have four apprentices.

Q. About what would be the age of the youngest of these? A. 16 and 17 is the youngest we ever take them to start with.

Q. Are those boys in the name of the apprentices or are they actually through? A. They are only apprentices under instructions.

Q. Have you any system of indenture under which they are apprenticed? A. No. We give them so much a week for the first year and they are at liberty to leave at any time they like.

Q. Do you find that boys whom you take for instruction as apprentices under these circumstances remain with you for the most part until the expiration of their time? A. Yes; there are only two I think since we have been here that have left of their own accord; others of course we have sent away finding they were not suited to the business.

Q. Have you had apprentices who are now or who have at any time served you as journeymen? A. Yes; some of our best men are those whom we brought up as apprentices and who have never worked anywhere else.

Q. You have men for wood turning—do they come under the head of those who receive ordinary wages? A. They come under the rate of pay mentioned.

Q. What do you pay your apprentices when they begin? A. \$3 when they begin first.

Q. And if they are inclined to stay what advance do you give them? A. It depends on how they get along; generally the second year \$4 and the third \$5 and \$6, according to the progress made by them in learning the business.

Q. How many years do you consider they should serve in order to become good men? A. They can get one branch, if a smart boy, in about three years.

Q. In order to get an insight into the whole trade it would take longer? A. Yes; for an insight that would enable them to do good work it would take four years.

Q. And after that you think if they are anything they ought to know their business? A. Of course they would not know so much as they would in three or four years more, but they could get journeymen's wages.

Q. Have you any principal machinists, men who can keep the machinery in order? A. Yes; we have a man specially for that purpose.

Q. Do you allow him extra? A. \$2 a day.

Q. Is the man in charge of your engine a thorough engineer? A. No; he is a man we schooled into the business ourselves.

Q. He has no certificate? A. No.

Q. Have you had any accident or anything of that kind occur? A. Never any accident about the engine.

Q. Any with your machines? A. Yes; there have been more or less accidents.

Q. What was the nature of those accidents? A. From the circular saw and a variety of moulder, the buzz planer also are the principal machines that the men get hurt on.

Q. Was there anything of a very serious nature occurred to any of them? A. There was a man who got an injury from a piece of sawed stuff flying from the saw which hit him in the stomach, and he died a week afterwards.

Q. Could that have been avoided? A. No; the piece slipped through and flew back and struck him.

Q. The machines that are dangerous, are they protected in so far as they can be without interfering with their proper working? A. Yes; on the saw on which this man got hurt there is a guard hanging so (indicates a hanging screen).

Q. You have some laborers about your place? A. Yes; quite a number of men piling lumber, unloading cars, &c.

Q. As a general rule what do laborers receive per day? A. \$1.10.

Q. How many hours do you consider a day's work for these different rates of wages that you have spoken of? A. Ten hours.

Q. All through? A. Yes.

Q. And the same hours on Saturday as on other days? Yes.

Q. The hands receiving the lowest pay would be the ordinary hands at \$1.10 a day? A. Yes.

Q. Your teamster is included in that? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever had any difficulty or labor troubles, or anything of that kind with your hands? A. No; never had.

Q. Do you find plenty of hands for all your requirements? A. There are times when it is difficult to get good mechanics, but as a general thing there is little difficulty in getting all we want.

Q. It is possible you may know something of the circumstances of your men—do you know if any of them have any property or own houses in which they reside? A. Yes; I did not think of that or I might have ascertained just how many, but quite a large number of them; there must be nearly one-half own their own houses and some own more and rent them. There is one that owns five houses and others four and three and so on.

Q. Do you find your men sober and industrious? A. Yes; more so than in any other place I was ever in.

Q. Have you had these men for a long time? A. Yes; some ever since we came here.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. These men who own houses do you think they have paid for them out of their wages or had they other means? A. Out of their wages I think, entirely. Of course some of them don't own them entirely; there might be mortgages on some more or less but some own them right out.

Q. The men whom you consider your best hands do you find them employment all the year round? A. Generally all the year round. Of course sometimes we shut down but the past winter we did not shut down at all. Four or three weeks are about as long as we have shut down.

Q. Four weeks you think would be the outside of the time you shut down? A. Yes; that is about the longest time we have shut down at once.

Q. Then outside of your regular hands you have a good many employed occasionally? A. Yes; in spring we take on many carpenters, masons, bricklayers, quarrymen, &c.; then we make bricks as well, and it swells our force considerably.

Q. These extra men that you employ are they residents of the place or do they come in from abroad? A. Some come in.

Q. Do you know whether or not they are otherwise employed when not working for you? A. Some are lumbering and others go to other quarries. The lumber woods is the principal occupation for the men in the winter, that is for those not at regular work.

Q. How frequently do you pay your hands? A. On the first and third Saturdays in the month.

Q. Do you pay them in cash? A. Yes; in cash.

Q. And in full? A. Yes; in full.

Q. How soon after the period of time to which their pay is made up do you pay them? A. On the first Saturday of the month they are paid up to the first Saturday of the month and on the third Saturday they are paid to the Friday night preceding, that is just one day.

Q. Do you know if the cost of living in Amherst is greater or less than at Halifax? A. Well, the rents are cheaper; for provisions sometimes you may get them fully as cheap here as at Halifax, but on the average living is cheaper here.



Q. How is fuel? A. Quite a bit cheaper, wood and coal both.

Q. What is the retail price of coal? A. \$3 to \$5.50 a chaldron, that is a ton and a half.

Q. What is good hard wood worth per cord? A. \$3.

Q. What is soft wood? A. \$2 a cord.

Q. What is the cord here? A. 128 feet.

Q. What is a hind quarter of beef worth here in the fall? A. From 5 to 6 cents a pound.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. What position do the men owning property occupy in your employment?  
A. Some are laborers, some are ordinary shop hands and there are some of them carpenters.

Q. What are the men whom you say own four and five houses? A. Foremen. A few are sash makers, and an ordinary bench hand I have owns three, if there are not more who own two each.

Q. What would be the value of those houses? A. \$500 to \$1,500 each, with the lot.

Q. What would be the average of those houses; are the majority of them worth \$1,500? A. They would average \$1,000, I suppose.

Q. How long were these men working for you before they built those houses?  
A. From 2 to 6 and 7 years.

Q. Have the wages of the men increased within the last 5 years? A. Yes.

Q. To what extent? A. Well, about 25 per cent.—fully 20 per cent.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Was this increase granted after consultation with the men; was it conceded by you or was it demanded by the men? A. Generally after consultation; in some cases we had to put up the pay without them saying anything to us.

Q. You had nothing like a strike? A. No; if a man made a demand for increased wages and said he would take that or go away, then we generally let him go, but if he came in a friendly sort of way and treated about it then we would generally agree about it.

Q. Do your men work at night? A. Occasionally.

Q. When they do so do they receive an increased rate of wages or are they paid at the day rate? A. They are paid always at the same rate.

Q. What is the age of the youngest boy you have working for you? A. 17, I think, is the age of the youngest we have down there apprenticed.

S. W. STEELE, clerk, shoe factory, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What position do you hold? A. Shipping and wholesale clerk.

Q. How many hands are there employed in the Amherst shoe factory? A. 163 altogether.

Q. How long has this place been established? A. In 1867—that is 21 years.

Q. Has your trade increased or otherwise? A. Yes; there has been a gradual increase in the business.

Q. Would you kindly give us the different rates of wages paid, or have you different rates of wages? A. No; we have not different rates exactly.

Q. Have you men at special work that you give higher wages to than to others?  
A. We give foremen more than laborers.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Is it piece work? A. Week work and piece work both.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What is the average wages that piece work hands make? A. I could hardly tell you that; I know the amount of wages and the number of hands.

Q. What is the full amount of wages paid out weekly? A. About \$970 a week, besides the staff.

Q. To how many hands? A. About 155.

Q. What do you mean by staff? A. Managers and clerks.

Q. What length of time do you consider a day's work? A. 10 hours.

Q. Could you give us the highest or the lowest wages made by any of the piece hands; that is for a fair average journeyman? A. On piece work I could not exactly.

Q. Could you give us the weekly earnings? A. Yes; about \$11 is the highest.

Q. And the lowest? A. Would be a girl, \$1.75.

Q. Take the lowest of the men? A. They are only boys.

Q. What will they make? A. About \$1.75; there is a few at that, two or three, I suppose, at that wages.

Q. What do you pay those boys when first they go to the work? A. About \$1.50 is the lowest.

Q. According to what do you afterwards pay them? A. According to their capabilities.

Q. Do you have them in the name of apprentices? A. No; just as boys.

Q. Do any of them remain till they are full-fledged tradesmen? A. Yes.

Q. Have you many of them in the establishment who went there as boys, and who have remained with you? A. There may be one or two, but not many. There are a few.

Q. What wages do the women get? A. The women average about \$2.65.

Q. Some higher and some lower? A. Yes.

Q. What is the highest? A. \$5.

Q. And the lowest? A. \$1.75, that is when commencing.

Q. Have you any small girls working in that establishment? A. No; no small girls.

Q. What would be the age of the youngest girl you have? A. About seventeen, I should think.

Q. Do you know if any of the employes there have money or properties of their own? A. Yes; a good many have property.

Q. State the nature of the property so far as you know? A. Some have houses and property of their own, and others have properties partly paid for.

Q. How many men, do you think, are in that position that have houses of their own paid for? A. Paid for or partly paid for, 36.

Q. Are those houses comfortable? A. Yes; they are comfortable.

Q. Do you know if rents are dearer now here than they have been? A. Some, I think.

Q. Do you know how the cost of living here compares with other towns? A. No; I do not.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are you able to classify your hands; you told us 155 were employes; how many of these are skilled hands and how many unskilled and how many women and how many boys? A. 31 women and girls; of boys there are 21 not classified as journey men.

Q. Of the men how many would you class as unskilled workmen? A. Small proportion.

Q. You have about 100 skilled men then? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Could you give us the average wages of the 100 skilled men? A. From \$7 to \$11 a week, according to their work.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are your hands constantly employed while you shut down? A. We never shut down.

Q. Do you employ the full force steadily? A. The full force.

Q. What hours constitute a day's work? A. From 7 to 12 and from 1 to 6.

Q. Do you ever work at night? A. Occasionally.

Q. Do your hands receive the same rate for night work as for day work? A. The same rate.

Q. How frequently do you pay the hands? A. Once a week.

Q. In cash? A. In cash.

Q. And in full? A. In full.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have you ever had any labor troubles with your hands? A. No.

Q. You always find sufficient hands for the work you require? A. Yes; there is very little trouble on that account.

Q. Where do you find your market? A. In the Maritime Provinces—principally Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

Q. Do you send any to Newfoundland? A. No.

Q. Do you send any to New Brunswick? A. No.

Q. Do you ever find any of the Quebec manufacturers coming down here and interfering with your trade in any way? A. Yes; to a certain extent.

Q. Does it interfere with you very much? A. Not very much; we make a better class of goods than the Quebec people and a different class.

Q. Do you ever have any manufacturers coming down from Ontario? A. Yes,

Q. Are you able to compete successfully with all these? A. Yes.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. What class of goods comes from Ontario,—is it better than those which come from Quebec? A. We generally call them the same, though a better class comes from Ontario than from Quebec.

Q. You have separate conveniences for your employés? A. Yes.

Q. With separate entrances? A. Yes; with separate entrances.

Q. Any division in between them at all outside? A. No.

Q. Those people owning property would they have pretty good positions in the factory? A. Yes.

Q. Would they have any other means besides what they earn there? A. No; just what they earn there.

Q. They have no children or other members of the family working there? A. No.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have the young hands employed there any education; can they read and write? A. They are most of them able to read and write.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do the doors of the factory open inward or outward? A. Inward, most, I think.

Q. How high is the factory? A. Three stories and a basement.

Q. How many flights of stairs lead to the top story? A. Two.

Q. How wide are those stairways? A. I cannot tell exactly—one is eight feet wide, I suppose, and the other about six.

Q. Are they straight or winding? A. One straight and one winding.

Q. How many people work on the top story? A. 51.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. In case of an alarm of fire do you think there is sufficient means of escape provided? A. Yes,



Q. Are you provided in the factory with the means of extinguishing fire? A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are there no fire escapes outside? A. No.

Q. Where does the dust from the machines go? A. Up by the chimney.

Q. It is carried up there by the draft? A. Yes.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. You stated that you turned out full-fledged mechanics; you do not mean that you turn out men able to make a complete boot? A. No.

Q. Only that they are fitted to work at any one machine? A. Only the one machine.

Q. They could only finish a boot so far as one machine was concerned in the operation? A. That is all, or to do a particular work.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. That is the usual way? A. Yes; that is the usual way; we do not teach the boys to make a complete boot, only to work the different machines.

C. R. S. CASEY, tanner, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How long have you been engaged in this business? A. About 27 years in Canada.

Q. Have you been engaged in it before? A. Yes.

Q. Do you find your business increasing now, is it more profitable than formerly? A. Well, no more profitable; there has been a small increase.

Q. What kind of leather do you turn out? A. Light stock.

Q. Any sole leather? A. No.

Q. Do you do anything in sheep skins? A. No.

Q. Nor anything of that kind? A. No.

Q. Any calf skins? A. No; only just light cow hides and buff.

Q. How many men do you employ? A. Average about 20.

Q. Have you different rates of wages? A. Yes.

Q. What is the average pay for men engaged in tanning outside the laborers? A. About \$7 a week.

Q. What do you pay your foreman or your first hand? A. We attend to it ourselves; our best man, the beamster, makes about \$12 a week, and the men in the yard \$8 a week, and the men in charge of the engine \$8 a week.

Q. Have you any young boys? A. None at all.

Q. Where do you find a market for the produce of your tannery? A. We sell it in town.

Q. Do you continue running all the year? A. Yes; run all year.

Q. And your hands are employed every day in the year? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know if any of your hands are in comfortable circumstances or own houses? A. Three or four own places paid for or partially so I should imagine.

Q. How long have they been with you, those hands? A. Some fifteen years.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Do you have any apprentices? A. No; we very seldom take any.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How frequently do you pay your hands? A. We pay what is coming to them every Saturday; we keep a grocery store and supplies for our men in the grocery line.

Q. Do you require the men to buy from you? A. No.

Q. They can buy where they please, then? A. Yes.

Q. If a man were to buy at another place, would it make any difference in his getting employment from you? A. If he continued to do it might, but we have never had a case of that kind; but some do get part in other places and it makes no difference.

Q. But if a man continued to buy groceries elsewhere it might make a difference in time? A. It might be convenient for us to do so, but we have not had a case of that kind.

Q. Have you many customers at that store besides your own men? A. No.

Q. You do not keep a regular store? A. No.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you sell the groceries to the men at the market price, that is at the same as they can get them at in other stores? A. The same.

Q. There is no difference in that respect at all? A. No; none.

Q. Do you sell anything else besides groceries; do you sell flour? A. I said provisions were sold and I meant flour and meal too.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you deal in coal too? A. Yes; I generally get a carload of coal and deliver it to them as they want it.

Q. Do you sell it at the same price as the retail dealers? A. Yes; and deliver it at the same.

Q. Do you sell boots and shoes to the men too? A. Yes, mostly; we trade with the shoe factory.

Q. About how much of their earnings do the men take in that kind? A. I should judge about one-half.

Q. And they get the rest in cash? A. Yes.

Q. On Saturday night you pay in full to them what is coming? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have you ever had any difficulty with your men on account of those dealings? A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do the single men take any goods from you? A. We avoid employing single men as much as possible; we very seldom employ a single man, but when we do we pay him his wages.

Q. Do you get your groceries in Halifax? A. Some; we buy a good many of them in town.

Q. Have you any wholesale groceries in town? A. Yes; I think I might call them wholesale—some of them; they cut things down very fine; we often find that we can buy to advantage here.

Q. Dealing in the limited scale that you do, can you afford to sell as cheaply as those dealing in larger quantities; in other words, can you afford to sell as cheaply? A. Well, we have to do it or not supply.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. You never found any complaints from the men in that respect? A. No<sup>7</sup> never; if we charge them high and forced them to take them, they would soon tell you of it.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Is there much of that kind of business done in Amherst or is it only in your particular trade? A. Not much of it done.

Q. What object have they in buying outside your store? A. Well, as a general thing, if a man has money in his pocket he can beat down a little in the different places, and then there is a good many things we do not have.

Q. So then it would be a disadvantage to buy in any other store than yours?  
A. I do not know as it would.

Q. Do you not think that when a man has done his work for you he should be at liberty to buy his groceries at any place he likes? A. Certainly he can, but then the privilege comes back again to us.

Q. Then his buying groceries in other places would prejudice his position in your employ? A. If I found a man was inclined that way, when I know it was no advantage to him, I would not consider him worth so much to me, and of course in employing men as I do, the idea is to make something out of him.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you consider that the men give you full value for the wages you pay them? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Then I suppose you consider that as long as you can sell to them cheaper, or as cheap as they can buy elsewhere, you think they ought in return deal with you—is that the way you look at it? A. Yes.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Do you not think the men should be left to their own free will? A. Certainly—we never left him anyway else; our free will comes in after that.

Q. If he did not continue dealing in your shop is he left at his own free will?  
A. He would be.

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EDWARD CURRAN, lumberer, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How many men have you employed on an average in your lumbering operations? A. In the summer from 35 to 40 men and boys, and in the winter from 50 to 60.

Q. About what wages do you pay? Say first as to the capable men you have lumbering? A. In general \$1.50 a day and board.

Q. And the ordinary hands? A. I pay them \$1, a free house and fire wood.

Q. Are they found? A. No.

Q. Have these men employment the year round? A. Yes.

Q. Do any accidents occur in your operations? A. Sometimes; I have been very fortunate, but one man had his arm taken off.

Q. Was that caused by accident, or was it his own fault? A. I think it was more of his own fault, as I had warned him not to put on the belt that way, but the next day he did the same and got cut.

Q. Do you employ boys? A. Yes.

Q. What is the age of the youngest boy? A. Somewhere about 14 or 15—I think; there are two of them.

Q. Are those boys educated? Have they been to school? A. Yes.

Q. Able to read and write? Yes; I think they can.

Q. Do these boys as a rule remain with you along until they grow up? A. No.

Q. Is the lumber business a profitable business? Is it as profitable as it has been in the past; is there an increase in the profit? A. It is as good as it has been for the past few years; it has been a little better this year.

Q. Have any of the men who have remained with you or have any of your men houses of their own? A. I do not know of any, but many of them are bringing up their families respectably and educating them too.

Q. Are they mostly men of families? A. Yes; mostly. I have some young men too.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What do you pay the men in the woods? A. Different prices; I think the lowest is \$16 and I pay as high as \$20.



- Q. And board? A. Yes.  
 Q. How long are they in the woods as a rule? A. About three months.  
 Q. Those employed in the woods in the winter work for you as well as in summer, do they? A. Yes; quite a number. I always try to have a place for them.

JOHN ROSS, heeler, shoe factory, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

- Q. Have you been long in this shoe factory? A. Nearly three years in this factory.  
 Q. Have you been in any other factory in this country? A. No; in no other place.  
 Q. Does the management of the factory here compare favorably with any other factory in which you may have been? A. It does.  
 Q. Do you work by the day or by the piece? A. By the week.  
 Q. How much do you get by the week? A. \$3.50.  
 Q. Do you belong to any labor organization? A. I do not.  
 Q. Have you had any difficulty or trouble with your employers? A. No; I never had.  
 Q. Are you paid weekly? A. Yes.  
 Q. What are your hours? A. Ten hours a day.  
 Q. The same as the rest of the men? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

- Q. You work at a heeling machine? A. No; by hand; there are no heeling machines in that factory.  
 Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.  
 Q. Can you purchase a house for yourself out of your wages? A. I do not think so.  
 Q. Do you find yourself able to save any money at all? A. Very little.  
 Q. About how much rent do you pay? A. \$5 a month.  
 Q. Do you get a pretty comfortable house for \$5 a month? A. It is fair; yes.  
 Q. How many rooms? A. Five rooms.  
 Q. Near to your work? A. Yes; it is within about five minutes walk.  
 Q. About what taxes do you pay for such a house? A. About \$2 a year.

By Mr. WALSH:—

- Q. Is that the only tax you have to pay? A. \$1, too, for school tax.  
 Q. That is \$3 for taxes? A. I think it is \$2.60 we pay for the other taxes a year, altogether.

DOUGLAS McLEOD, cutting room, shoe factory, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

- Q. How long have you been in this shoe factory? A. Going on fourteen years.  
 Q. Have you ever been in any other factory? A. No other shoe factory; well, perhaps, you may say a short time but not long.  
 Q. Tell us what wages you get? A. I average about \$9 a week.  
 Q. What are the hours you have to work? A. Ten.  
 Q. Are you employed at the one branch; cutting? A. Yes, always.  
 Q. Had you ever any difficulty between yourself and your employer? A. No.  
 Q. Do you work full time all the year? A. Yes.  
 Q. You are not aware of any system of fining or anything of that kind in the establishment you are engaged in? A. No; I do not think there is any such system in our factory.

Q. Are you in position to save any money. I do not wish to interfere in your private matters, but it is our business to enquire whether the workmen here live in comfortable circumstances or not; it is not a matter of mere curiosity on our part but for the good of the men? A. Yes; I can save a little. I live economically.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Do you work by the piece? A. No.

Q. By day's work? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you belong to any labor organization? A. No; I never did.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you own the house in which you live? A. Yes.

Q. Would you feel at liberty to tell us how long you think it will take to pay for your house out of your wages? A. I do not know as I never studied it that way; I had some money when I went there and I borrowed some and built it in that way.

CLIFFORD TOWER, employé shoe factory, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What is your position; what branch of the work are you at? A. Lasting.

Q. Did you ever work in any other shoe factory? A. No.

Q. What wages are you paid? A. Different wages; I am on piece work.

Q. Well as a piece worker what are you able to earn on an average? A. \$10, \$11 and \$12. It is all according to how I work.

Q. What are your hours of work? A. Ten.

Q. Have you had any difference with your employers ever? A. No.

Q. You have no reason to complain? A. No; none at all.

Q. Do you belong to any labor organization? A. Well, I can't say as I do, I belong to the Union formed by the coal cutters, but that has nothing to do with this

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Can the other lasters make as good wages as you? A. There are men earning as good wages as me.

Q. What do you think would be about the average wages earned by lasters not including any boys, only the journeymen? A. If a fair man he can earn \$9 a week—he ought to.

Q. Do you work the year round? A. Yes.

Q. You do not lose any time except through sickness or your own desire to be off? A. That is all.

Q. How frequently are you paid? A. Every Saturday.

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. Can you lay by any of your money, say to buy a house or to invest in any other way? A. Well, I think I can.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have you done so? A. Not yet, I did not make a start.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are there many boys employed at learning the branch of the business you are at? A. No; I do not think there are many.

Q. When they do work at it are they bound? A. No.

Q. They go just to learn what they can of the business, I suppose? A. Yes.

Q. Do you understand any branch outside of lasting? A. Yes.

Q. You are a good all round hand? A. Yes.

GEORGE EVANS, foreman shoe factory, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH :

Q. Have you been long engaged in this shoe factory ? A. This last factory, 5 years.

Q. Have you worked in others ? A. Yes.

Q. Does this one compare favorably with the others ? Yes ; very.

Q. Is it a fair question to ask what wages you receive ? A. Yes ; it is a fair question to ask, but I do not know that I am bound to answer it.

Q. What are your hours of labor ? Ten hours.

Q. Throughout the year ? A. Yes ; throughout the year.

Q. Have you had any difficulty in your connection with the firm during that time ? A. None whatever.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Do you have the hiring of the hands ? A. No.

Q. You have nothing to do with that ? A. No.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Do you discharge them ? A. No.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Do you know whether any objection is made in the factory to men who belong to labor organizations ? A. There is none in our factory, and there is no labor organization around this Province, as I know of ; we are not troubled with anything of that sort down here.

Q. Have you any orders or any understanding as to the age at which children, shall be employed ? A. I understand they shall not be employed under 14 years.

Q. Do you think any are employed under 14 years of age ? A. Not in our factory ; I know none are employed under 14.

By Mr. Walsh :—

Q. Have you any system of fines, or anything like that ? A. Nothing of that sort ; we do not run it that strict.

Q. If any work is spoiled how is it managed ? A. The men are cautioned not to spoil any more, that is all.

By Mr. KERWIN :—

Q. Are the boys and girls or any of them ever abused or scolded for anything ? A. Not as I am aware of ; no one has the right to do it unless the manager, and he generally does that thing ; he is generally very kind to the men and boys and to all in the factory ; he might scold them for being idle at times, but there is no abuse whatever ; he in fact treats them all very gentlemanly.

Q. Could there not be a labor organization in this province and you not to know of it ? A. Well, there might be, and still there are so many going in and out, and from my position in the factory I would learn something of it.

Q. Suppose an employé were late in the morning would there be any fine imposed ? A. No ; they are scolded, perhaps.

Q. Would their wages be docked ? A. No ; the wages are not docked for it.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Would the doors be locked at any time after the people came in ? A. No ; there was some little time ago a little talk about it. We work at different times. In the winter when we commence at 7.30 we would have three quarters of an hour for dinner and then we work till 6.15, and when the time was changed back to the first of March the manager gave notice to the hands to be more prompt, that he would lock the door, but he only threatened that, as he did not lock the door ; the door is never locked as I know of.



MACK WHITE, laborer, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What wages do you get every day? A. I got \$1.50 last summer for a couple of months; this summer \$1.10 first and then \$1.15, and this winter my wages were cut down and I put in only nine hours.

Q. Were you paid at the rate of \$1.15 for the nine hours? A. Yes.

Q. Do you ever work any after hours? A. Yes; sometimes we do.

Q. Are you paid accordingly for it? A. Sometimes we are and sometimes we lose a little about it.

Q. In what particular occupation are you laboring; do you follow horses? A. No; I am working in the yard for Messrs. Rhodes & Curry. I unload cars for the mill, &c.

Q. Have you been long with them? A. I have been five years off and on and I have left them at one time for a couple of months; I left twice and was away for a couple of months and went back again to them.

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. Did you work anywhere else in the province? A. Yes.

Q. Where did you work? A. In 5 or 6 different places.

Q. Have you a house of your own? A. No.

Q. Do you occupy a house? A. Yes; I pay rent for it.

Q. What rent do you pay for your house? A. I pay \$5.25 a month.

Q. What accommodation have you got for \$5.25. A. It is a pretty good house, only nothing extra.

Q. Is living cheaper here or as cheap as in any other places you have been in? A. No.

Q. Where could you live cheaper than you can here? A. I can buy things cheaper at Memramcook than I can here.

Q. Is there much difference? A. I thought there was quite a difference.

Q. What did you find cheaper in Memramcook? A. Tobacco and butter are quite a bit cheaper, and potatoes are a little cheaper and flour is some cheaper.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. When you work at night what pay do you get? A. I get the day rate of pay. I have never worked at night but I work late.

F. B. ROBB, of Robb & Sons, foundry and machine shop, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How many men do you employ on an average, taking the last two years? A. We have been employing the last four months in the various shops from 75 to 80 men.

Q. How many of these stand as machinists, and how are they paid? A. The machinists and mechanics by day's work and get as high wages as moulders; but the moulders by doing piece work can make more wages under the present system than machinists would.

Q. What do moulders make? A. They make as high as \$15 a week. Sometimes they make higher.

Q. Do any make \$20? A. I have none that make that.

Q. What kind of mouldings do you make? A. Our specialty has been stoves, but lately we have been moulding castings for the mines.

Q. Is your foundry extending its work; is it doing more business than it was? A. We are doing more business on account of our entering into new lines of manufacture. Up to a year ago or a year and a half ago we were doing but little outside of our regular foundry and machine work, but about a year ago we commenced boiler making and are now doing a good business in that, and now we are fitting up so as to make our own engines as well.

Q. Do you make agricultural implements? A. No; we do not seek it.

Q. What do you pay your machinists, that is the weekly hands? A. They get all the way from \$1.25 to \$1.75 a day. Some of them get as high as \$2 a day.

Q. What do your ordinary hands get? A. We pay our fitters \$1.40, \$1.50 \$1.60 and then we have some hands as low as \$1.10.

Q. These would be helpers? A. Yes; and the outside hands. We think we should get them for \$1 but that depends on what we find in the man; we are always willing to allow what the man is worth to us.

Q. Have you many boys in your establishment? A. Not a great many. It depends on how our work is especially sometimes when we employ more boys than at others and there are at times when we will not take a boy for a long time.

Q. What is the age of the youngest boy you employ? A. We never take any under seventeen.

Q. Do you then take them as apprentices? A. Yes.

Q. Do they remain as a general rule until their apprenticeship is over or until they become skilled mechanics? A. That depends wholly upon the boy or at least a great deal does; we try to get them to stay in every case we can, but some boys after working two or three years get uneasy, and you cannot hold them.

Q. Have you had any apprentices remain with you as journeymen after getting through? A. Yes; we have, our foreman is one. The foreman of the foundry has been with us since we started; the foreman of the moulding shop has been with us nearly twenty years and a number of the moulders have been with us a good many years.

Q. Have any of your employes property of their own? A. Yes; some have built two houses, one for themselves and one for speculation, and many own their own house.

Q. What number? A. I could see what number, but I have no doubt there is from 12 to 20 who own their own houses.

Q. Do you know if they are paid for, or are they paying for them? A. Many of them have their houses paid for. Speaking of men who have houses to rent, there is one man who has built three or four houses and the last one he built at an expense of probably \$2,500.

Q. What position does he occupy with you? A. He is one of the ordinary moulders; he built it for speculation.

Q. Did he build from his own industry? A. Yes; no other way of doing it—that man has no outside interests in any way that I am speaking of; he came to us in very poor circumstances and he went in attending to the furnace and then he took a notion to learn moulding, and still though not a foreman he is a good man.

Q. How long has he been working for you? A. Probably 18 years.

Q. Do your men work regularly all the year round? A. Yes; of course we have always closed up Christmas week, or sometimes perhaps in the spring there is a little slack time for stock taking and like that, but we have been casting every day right straight along; we never had a loafing spell for two or three years but are casting every day right along.

Q. Do you find the men as a rule attentive to their work and of steady habits? A. Yes; we have no trouble that way. Of course we treat them well and find no trouble and the relations existing between us are everything that could be desired.

Q. Never any labor trouble? A. Nothing at all, not the slightest.

Q. In the case of men renting houses do you know what the average rent would be for houses which are used by the workmen here? A. That depends on the place, but I should think that from about \$4 to \$7 or \$8 a month, it would be a very poor house you would get under \$4 a month.

Q. Take the average at \$6? A. It would hardly run up to six dollars a great many of them are cheap houses and I think \$5 would be about the average rent.

Q. Have you a family? A. Yes.

Q. Do you find that living is cheaper now than it has been? A. Well, that is rather a difficult question to answer because it is relative. It is like this; certain things

are cheaper than they were and other things would be higher. and the cost of living depends upon how a man chooses to live,—he can live either economically or expensively.

Q. The average workingman around here has nothing to complain of in that respect? A. He can live as cheaply as he pleases.

Q. When do you pay your men? A. Every Saturday night.

Q. Up to the full time? Up to Friday night.

Q. Do you pay in cash then? A. Yes; always in cash; they generally are in our debt, many of them; it is impossible to keep it otherwise.

Q. Can you find any quantity of skilled hands at any time you want them? A. Yes; if we want a mechanic we generally advertise in the city papers and generally easily find a man.

Q. Do you find your business improving as a general rule? A. Well, yes.

Q. Take the last 7 or 10 years? A. It certainly is improving and as a reason I said we were extending it into new lines. We began, say twelve years ago; we employed about 22 hands, that is our pay roll would not exceed from \$125 to \$150 a week.

Q. What were the wages paid men then? A. Very much the same as now, there is not much difference; now we have a much greater number of hands as I stated and our wages run from \$600 a week, sometimes \$625 and sometimes as high as \$650 a week.

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GEORGE W. CHRISTIE, wood work manufacturer, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How long have you been engaged in this industry? A. About 25 years, I think it is.

Q. Take the last ten years, as an average, has your trade as a general rule increased or otherwise? A. It has increased a good deal.

Q. Do you find this new branch of business, the making of caskets, which you have lately entered upon, a growing business? A. Yes; I think it is.

Q. Do you find that a profitable branch of your business? A. Yes; very fair.

Q. Do you find your business as a whole more profitable than before? A. Yes; it has been this last number of years.

Q. How many hands do you employ? A. About from 15 to 20; I think I have 18 now.

Q. What wages do you pay your hands? A. Some as high as \$2.50 a day and some \$1 a day.

Q. Those at \$1 a day would be laborers, I suppose? A. Yes.

Q. What is the average of your skilled hands? A. \$9 a week—\$1.50 a day—and the foreman gets more.

Q. Do they get constant work the year round? A. Yes.

Q. Do you ever have to shut down for any repairs? A. No; we work nine hours in winter time for about two months.

Q. And ten hours in summer time? A. Yes.

Q. Do you find any difficulty in getting a sufficient number of hands for your work? A. No.

Q. Do you find your hands generally sober or fairly sober men? A. Yes; all very sober men.

Q. Are there any of these men a long time with you? A. Yes; they have been a good while—two or three from little boys.

Q. Have you any little boys now? A. No.

Q. Do you take apprentices at all? A. We have a boy nine years old commencing this year.

Q. Do you find your apprentices remain until they become skilled hands? A. Yes.



Q. Have you any of them working with you still? A. Yes; I have two now.

Q. How long have they been with you? A. 10 or 12 years.

Q. When do you pay your men? A. Every Saturday night.

Q. In cash? A. In cash.

Q. And in full? A. Yes; in full.

Q. Up to the time? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever had any labor trouble with your men at all? A. No.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. You said your business was increasing; to what do you attribute that increase? A. Well, to the population increasing—there is a greatly growing demand for our work and we are extending it further.

Q. Is your trade confined to this Province? A. Well, to these two Provinces and to Newfoundland.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Is there any combination in the casket business in this Province? A. No; I have not.

Q. Are you restricted as to the persons to whom you shall sell? A. No.

Q. Do you know of any such combination in this Province? A. No; not in this Province; it is in Ontario, I believe.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Do you pay your men the same in winter as in summer? A. Yes; just the same for nine hours.

F. McDONALD, employé Rhodes, Curry & Co., sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How long have you been employed there? A. Three years in the fall.

Q. What wages do you receive? A. \$12 a week.

Q. Is that the average wages for bench hands or do all the other bench hands receive the same rate of wages as yourself? A. Some do and some do not so far as I know.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Have you a regular scale of wages there or are the men only paid what they are worth? A. According to their worth.

Q. You have no carpenters' union? A. No.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have you ever had any differences with your employers? A. Not in the least.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Who fixes the rate of wages in your department, the foreman or the manager? A. I think it is understood by both.

Q. Do the men frequently think that they are worth more than they receive and ask for an increase of wages? A. Not often, to my knowledge.

Q. Have you frequently known the men's wages to be increased without making application for it? A. Well, I do not know of any. That is, without application in some way, either directly or indirectly.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have you any bench hands in your establishment? A. Yes; there are a good many.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Are you frequently sent out of the shop? A. I have never been out yet.

Q. Do you know if the men sent out receive the same rate of pay as when in the shop? A. So far as I know they do.

Q. If sent any considerable distance from their residence, are they permitted to take their time in walking to and from their work in the ten hours? A. I do not think that any work is so far away as would need taking the time.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. Have you a house of your own or do you rent one? A. Rent.

Q. What rent do you pay? A. About \$5 a month.

Q. A fairly comfortable house? A. Yes.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q. What would be about the value of the house that you would get for \$5 a month? A. From \$1,400 to \$1,500 would be the fair value of the house I am in and I pay \$10 a month and let out one part.

Q. You have lived in other places? A. Yes.

Q. What places? A. Truro, New Glasgow and Pictou.

Q. In any of the large cities? A. I never kept house in any large city, but I have been in them.

Q. Could you tell us the price of things in Amherst and in Halifax; can you compare the prices? A. I could not.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Is there any difference in the cost of living between Amherst and Truro? A. A little; I think you can live cheaper in Truro.

IVAN PIPES, hooker in shoe factory, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. What do you mean by hooker? A. Putting hooks in the boots.

Q. How long have you been in the factory? A. One month.

Q. Do you know about what age you are? A. 14 in October next.

Q. Have you ever been to school? A. Yes.

Q. Can you read and write? A. Yes.

Q. Do you intend to remain in the factory until you become a practised hand there? A. I expect to go to school next winter.

Q. What wages do you earn per week? A. About \$3.

Q. Do you work piece work or by the day? A. Piece work.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Do you board with your parents? A. Yes.

G. M. DOLE, cabinet maker, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Have you been long in your present employ? A. About two years.

Q. Do you work piece work or by the day? A. At times piece work and at times day work.

Q. Just state if you please what your average wages would be? A. From \$10 to \$12 a week.

Q. What are your hours of work? A. 10 hours.

Q. Are you employed continuously throughout the year? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do the other cabinet makers make the same wages that you earn—I mean in your establishment? A. Yes; about the same wages.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. When are you paid? A. Twice a month.

Q. Are you paid up to the time and in full? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are all the hands in the factory paid at the same time? A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever have any desire to be paid more frequently? A. No.

Q. Have you heard any of the hands expressing such a desire? A. No; I cannot say as I have.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Are there many boys employed in your business? A. No; not many.

Q. Well, those that are, are they regularly apprenticed? A. They are not under articles.

Q. Not under indenture? A. No.

Q. Only just hired at so much a week? A. Yes.

Q. What wages do they pay boys when they first go in to learn? A. I think about \$3.00.

Q. Do the boys generally stay till they finish their time? A. Some do and some of them not; we have a couple there and there is no advantage in keeping them.

Q. Do you think that an indenture system would be a benefit both to master and boy? A. No; I do not think so.

Q. You would not approve of the indenture system? A. I think not.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Has there been any accident in your establishment? A. There has.

Q. Fatal accident? A. Yes.

Q. Through a defect in the machinery or through dangerous machinery? A. I think it was more carelessness on the part of the operators.

Q. Carelessness? A. Yes.

Q. In what respect? What was the nature of the accident? A. Through a circular saw the accidents are principally; the men become careless at the work they are at and accidents will happen.

Q. Were the persons hurt at that machine capable of doing their work or were they ignorant of it? A. They were capable men.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Were they journeymen? A. Well, they were men who were continually employed at the one line of work.

Q. They were men, not boys? A. Men.

Q. So far as you are acquainted with it is the machinery in the factory as well guarded as it can be with due consideration to the performance of the work in hand? A. Yes; I think so.

RUFUS HICKS, sole leather department, shoe factory, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have you always been in this department? A. Yes.

Q. Have you been in any factory outside of this one? A. No.

Q. How long have you been in this factory? A. Twelve years.

Q. What wages do you get? A. \$11.

Q. Have you ever had any difficulty with your employers? A. No; none whatever.



Q. Are you paid every week? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you cut soles or do you keep stock? A. We cut the soles in our room.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you cut them by machinery? A. Yes; we have a sole cutter and dies.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do the other men in the room earn as good wages as you do? A. No.

Q. You are foreman? A. Yes.

Q. What would the men in that department earn? A. Well, from \$6.50 to \$7.50.

Q. Are they journeymen? A. Yes.

Q. Do you employ any boys there? A. Yes; three.

Q. What can they earn? A. I think one earns between \$4 and \$5, another one \$3 and the smaller boy \$2.50.

Q. Are they learning any other branch of the trade? A. No; one learns to fit stock and the other is learning to make heels.

Q. Have you a family to support? A. Yes.

Q. Can you save any money out of your salary? A. Yes; a little.

Q. Do you own a house? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Was it entirely out of your labor you paid for your house? A. I have not a very large house—I think I may have since I went there.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you know if any of the men in the factory hold any of the stock in the company—any workingman? A. Yes; two or three of them do.

Q. Is the stock on the market so that any man in the factory can buy it? A. It has been, but I do not know of any stock being sold now.

Q. Do you think it would be a desirable investment for the men in the factory to buy up the stock as far as they could and then run it as a co-operative concern? A. I don't think it would be hardly possible for them to buy the stock as it is at too high a price.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Do you work ten hours a day? A. Yes.

Q. Does the employer ever give his employes a holiday? A. No.

Q. Have you never had a holiday in the twelve years? A. Well, under the first manager I had a few holidays, but never since.

Q. Would they give you permission to go away for two or three days if you asked for it? A. They would let you go, but not very willingly.

JOHN PIPES, employé shoe factory, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How long have you worked there? About thirteen years.

Q. Did you work before in any other factory? A. No.

Q. What is your particular branch of the business? A. Finishing bottoms.

Q. Is your work piece work? A. I used to have piece work ten years ago and I used to employ men then, but I am working by the week now.

Q. What is your wages now? A. \$7.50.

Q. Did you ever have any difficulty with your employers? A. A little once—I went away awhile on account of the wages being cut down a little, and I went to Canada West, but I came back.

Q. Did you do any better there? A. My health failed there—I was on a farm.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Did you learn your trade in this factory? A. Yes; the finishing part.

Q. Did you learn any other branch of the trade besides this? A. Yes; creeping.

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. Can you support your family comfortably on the wages you receive? A. Yes.

Q. Do you save anything out of it? A. Some.

Q. Do you own your own house? A. Yes; partly.

Q. It will take some time to pay for it out of your wages? A. Yes; some time.

By Mr. GIBSON :—

Q. Is your work done by machinery or by hand? A. By hand.

A. J. MUNROE, boss of the team, shoe factory, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. What does "boss of the team" imply? A. I take a job from the firm and employ my own help.

Q. Do you pay the help yourself? A. Yes.

Q. Are you responsible for the pay of the men you hire? A. Yes.

Q. Is the company responsible? A. Not as I know of.

Q. You pay your own help? A. Yes.

Q. After having paid for your help during the week about what on an average would be your wages? A. About \$10, perhaps a little more.

Q. What kind of help do you employ? A. I employ men and boys.

Q. What is about the age of the boys you employ? A. From 16 up.

Q. How many of those do you employ—take a week or a month or any time you like so as to give us an average? A. Five.

Q. Would it be a fair question to ask you what you pay these boys, you say they are from 16 up? A. The youngest is 16.

Q. What do you pay them? A. We pay from \$4.50, \$5 and \$6.

Q. What do you pay the men? A. They are piece work.

Q. What are they able to earn at piece work? A. About \$8.

Q. So the boys are paid from \$4.50 up to \$6, and the men on piece work average about \$8? A. About that.

Q. Do you have to work extra hours for these rates? A. No; not for that—of course we work extra hours in certain seasons of the year.

Q. I mean for this pay—I know that you work extra hours in the factory occasionally, but the hands are paid extra for that? A. Yes.

Q. And the piece workers have that time to employ for their own benefit? A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever work in any other factory in this country before working here? A. Yes; in two.

Q. Where did you work before? A. In Truro and next in Sussex, N. B.

Q. Does this factory compare favorably with these others that you have worked in? A. Yes; favorably.

Q. Have you ever had any difficulty or trouble with your employers? A. No.

Q. Nor with the men you employ? A. No; I cannot say I have.

Q. Are you a member of any labor organization? A. No.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Does the firm or the company employ men directly at the same work that you give the men under you? A. No; they do not.

Q. Who fixes the rate of pay given to the men who work in your team? A. The manager.

Q. You have nothing to say about that? A. I have something to say about it of course, but I always consult the manager before I do anything.

Q. Would they get the same rate of pay from the company as they get from you? A. I believe they would, I have no reason to believe they would not.

Q. You take the work out and finish it? A. Yes; I get the work, the uppers, and finish.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you employ any girls? A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are the boys you get wholly unskilled or are they in any way advanced in the business? A. Well, sometimes I get them unskilled, and I hire them at times for different branches.

Q. Do those boys learn more than a single operation while with you? A. Yes; I change them round at times and advance them a bit.

Q. Do they learn the use of machinery? A. No; we do not use machinery to any extent.

Q. A great deal of the work in this factory is done by hand? A. Mostly all work by hand.

Q. And it is all done by machinery in other factories? A. Yes.

Q. You turn out a superior article to that made in other factories in the larger cities? A. Yes; that is the intention.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you know if any of the boys have been to school and can read and write? A. Well, some of them have.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you think there are any who cannot write? A. I think I have one who can't read any way.

Q. Do you think he is sensible of his deficiency and would like to learn to read? A. I do not know about that.

Q. Are there any night schools in Amherst at which boys could learn? A. There is not at present—they are talking of starting one here.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you think it would be better for a boy to endeavor to get some education in this advanced age even if he should lose some time in earning wages? A. Yes; I think so.

Q. Do you find those boys good, tractable and willing to learn? A. Yes; every one of them.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Is there any of this work done outside the factory? A. No.

Q. None? A. No; it is all done inside the factory as far as I know.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Can you tell us which shows the greatest aptitude for learning his trade a boy with a little learning or a boy with none at all? A. I have taken no notice of that. The boy I referred to is very clever, in fact he is an exception to the rule.

GEORGE CLARKE, carpenter, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How long have you been at work? A. Since 22nd last June.

Q. What wages do you get? A. \$3 a week.



- Q. Are you supposed to be an apprentice? A. Yes.  
 Q. Is it your intention to stay till you perfect yourself? A. Yes.  
 Q. Have you ever had any trouble with your master? A. No; I don't think.  
 Q. What wages do you expect after you put in your first year? A. I do not know, whatever they may give me; I expect pretty good wages.  
 Q. Do your parents live here? A. Yes.  
 Q. Do you board with with them? A. Yes.  
 Q. Have you been to school? A. Yes.  
 Q. How far have you gone with your education? A. The second book.  
 Q. Can you do any figuring? A. A little.

ANDREW MOLLINSON, shoe factory, sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

- Q. What do you do in the factory? A. Nail, tack on and finish heels.  
 Q. What wages do you get? A. \$4.50.  
 Q. How long have you been engaged in the factory? A. Four years.  
 Q. Is it your intention to remain at that until you know all the factory business; do you intend to follow it up? A. No.  
 Q. Have you been to school? A. Yes.  
 Q. Are you able to read and write well? A. I can read well and write a little.  
 Q. Have yourself and your master always agreed; has he ever had anything to say to you for doing any mischief? A. Yes.  
 Q. What did you do wrong? A. I sometimes would go out and loaf a little, and he talks about it.  
 Q. Do you not think it would be better for you to attend to your business and not attempt any loafing? A. Yes.  
 Q. You are getting older now and have better sense? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

- Q. Do you live with your parents? A. No.  
 Q. Do you pay for your board? A. Yes.  
 Q. How much can you get board for here? A. I can get board for \$2 a week; that is what I pay for it myself.  
 Q. How old are you? A. Seventeen years.  
 Q. Were you only a little over 13 when you went to work there? A. Yes.  
 Q. How many different parts of shoes can you work at now? A. Finishing bottoms, heeling, nailing toe and heel and tongueing.  
 Q. How long do you think you would have to work before you would be considered a journeyman. A. I do not know.  
 Q. You have not thought of that at all? A. No.  
 Q. Is there any particular time at the end of which a boy in the place would be considered a journeyman, or does he wait till he gets a certain age? A. I do not know.  
 Q. You do not know what the practice is? No answer.  
 Q. Have you any relatives here to look after you? A. No.  
 Q. Do you just take care of yourself? A. I take care of myself.

J. J. FURLONG, employé Rhodes, Curry & Co., sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

- Q. What wages do you get? A. \$10.  
 Q. What part of the business do you take? A. Wood turning.  
 Q. Are you continually employed at that? A. Yes.  
 Q. How long have you been at it? A. This six years.  
 Q. Were you anywhere else in this same kind of employ? A. Yes; in Halifax.  
 Q. How does this employ compare with that of Halifax? A. The employment is steadier.

Q. Have you ever had any trouble with your employers? A. In Amherst?

Q. Yes? A. No.

Q. Are you a member of any labor organization? A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How do wages in Halifax and Amherst compare? A. Sometimes in Halifax I would get \$12, and more times \$10 a week.

Q. Do you think \$10 below the average in Halifax? A. Well, I think times went down in Halifax the last 5 or 6 years.

Q. How do you think the cost of living in Amherst compares with the cost of living in Halifax? A. Just the same, I think.

Q. Would rents be larger there than here? A. I do not think so.

Q. Would you get a house for less money in Amherst? A. No; I think you can get a better house in Halifax for the same money.

Q. Is fuel cheaper or dearer in Halifax? A. About the same.

Q. Do you think you pay the same here for your family supplies as you would in Halifax? A. I think it is a little dearer here.

Q. How about butter, eggs and vegetables here and in Halifax? A. I cannot exactly say, I have not been in Halifax lately, but I imagine meat is dearer here than in Halifax.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you own any property, or houses, or anything of that kind here? A. No.

Q. Do you live in a rented house? A. Yes.

Q. What rent do you pay? A. \$7.

Q. Do you keep it all for your own family? A. Well, part.

Q. Do you get constant employment the year round here? A. They are closed down for a period of a month or so, and this year a week or so.

WALLACE ARMOUR, Robb & Co., sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What are you? A. Pattern maker.

Q. How long have you been in that employ? A. Something over two years in this establishment.

Q. Have you been in any others? A. Yes.

Q. In this city? A. No; in Moncton, where I served my time.

Q. What wages do you get as pattern maker? A. 20 cents an hour.

Q. Are there any other pattern makers there besides you? A. Two besides me.

Q. Do you know whether they get the same rate of wages as you? A. I know they do not get as much as me, but I am not positive what they get.

Q. Are you kept at the one branch—pattern making entirely? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you get constant employment all the year round? A. Yes.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. 10 hours.

Q. Is that the general rule? A. Yes.

Q. Are you ever required to work more than ten hours? A. Some times, when there has been a breakdown and when work comes in, and we have to do so to oblige our employers.

Q. Do you get any increased rate of wages when you work at night? A. Yes, I usually get one and a half time.

Q. What do moulders get in that establishment? A. I have no idea. I have no way of finding out. Moulders generally work at piece work, and good wages are received from it.

Q. Are the wages you receive the average, or are they higher or lower in other towns? A. In Moncton, after getting through my time, I had \$10 a week, and one

man in the shop got more than I did and some got less, that was in the Government employ I was there, but that 20 cents would be the average of a good man. They told me they never gave more than \$1.75 here before I came.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have you ever had any trouble with your employer? A. No, never.

Q. Are you a member of any labor organization? A. No.

E. C. PELTON, employé, Rhodes, Curry & Co., sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What particular position do you hold? A. I have charge of all departments in the shop.

Q. What wages do you get per week? A. \$18.

Q. How long have you been in their employ? A. 10 years.

Q. During that time has the work of the establishment increased very much?

A. It has very much.

Q. Have you ever had any business troubles with your employers? A. Nothing of any extent.

Q. What times are you paid? A. Twice a month.

Q. Are you then paid in cash and in full? A. Yes; in cash and in full.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What do carpenters—journeymen—generally receive; good fair hands? A. From \$9 to \$12 a week.

Q. The man who receives \$12 a week will be an extra hand, or else in a position of trust? A. Well, we consider him one of our best men, he is capable of going at any job and completing it.

Q. Are there no journeymen carpenters employed at less than \$9 a week? A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. Are there many boys employed? A. We have three.

Q. They are learning the trade? A. Yes.

Q. Would you consider it an advantage if those boys had some technical education, such as free hand drawing, mechanical drawing or other technical knowledge of that sort? A. Yes; I would.

Q. Would you favor an educational system which would make that part of the instruction either a part of the common school system, or be given in separate schools under the direction of the Government? A. I would.

Q. You believe that boys taking some course of instruction would turn out better mechanics? A. I certainly do.

Q. Are those boys in your department indentured? A. No.

Q. Do you think an indenture system would be an improvement on the present system? A. I do not.

Q. Do you not think it would hold them more strictly to their work? A. It would hold them more strictly to their work, but at the same time, I do not think it would be an advantage, you would then have boys throwing away their time for five or seven years and then not be mechanics, while they might learn another business in less time, for some are not adapted to the carpentry trade and therefore I do not think that system would be of any benefit.

Q. The boys that you have had, do they remain with you after learning the trade? A. Some do and some do not, but I must say that some of the best hands are those who went there as boys and were there as boys when I went first there, and they are now getting good pay, but many of them who were turned out good hands have gone away.



By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Do all the boys that go there remain till they have learned their trade? A. No; they want a change after a little time.

Q. Do you not think that the indenture system would keep these boys? A. Well, if their mind was interested on something else they would not like to learn the trade; of course they would have to put in their time but they would not learn their trade, and we have had some such instances.

Q. After leaving you did they follow it as their trade? A. No; they quit it for good.

Q. Although some may be adapted for learning it? A. Yes.

Q. When boys come to you do you enquire about their education? A. Yes, I do.

Q. Would you be very willing to take a boy who could neither read nor write? A. I would sooner have one that could.

Q. Can you give any idea of the number of men in your department who own the houses in which they live? A. I would not say that I can do so; I know there are several men having houses, but I do not know whether they are paying interest or not; there are quite a number of men who have control of them however and I think in some cases they own them.

Q. Is there any building society which advances money to the men building their own houses? A. There is none in Amherst as I know of.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. As a general rule does it require that a boy should have a better education to become a carpenter than he should have for any other trade? A. I think it does.

ALEXANDER W. MURRAY sworn and examined.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. You are connected with the wood working establishment also? A. Yes.

Q. What particular part do you take? A. I have charge of the wood working department.

Q. How many hands are employed in the whole factory? A. About twenty.

Q. Would you please state what your wages are? A. \$2.50 a day.

Q. Have you been long with Christie Bros.? A. Going on eight years or seven years.

Q. What time are you paid? A. Every Saturday at 6 o'clock.

Q. Are you paid in full then? A. I am not quite sure but they are mostly all paid in full.

Q. Why do you say that; are you not? A. Well, I deal a little with them in groceries for my own benefit and I leave a little to pay the account.

Q. Is there any advantage or is it a disadvantage to you to deal with the store? A. It is an advantage to me, it saves me trouble of going shopping, and I can take the things home with me.

Q. Can you get the articles at the same price as in the other stores in town? A. Yes, and sometimes cheaper.

Q. You are paid the balance in cash? A. Yes.

Q. Are there any other hands here from Christie & Co.'s establishment? A. I do not see any at present.

Q. Can you tell us what the wages of the other men are that work there; take general wood workers what is about the general average of their wages? A. There is over half of them working piece work who would average \$1.50 a day, sometimes more and sometimes less.

Q. Have you ever had any trouble with your employers? A. No.

Q. Do you know of any of the other hands having trouble? A. No.

Q. Do you belong to any labor organization? A. No, I object to them.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Are the other employés of the same establishment obliged to buy groceries of Christie Bros.? A. They are not obliged—they do so if they please.

Q. Are they in the habit of doing so? A. If they get cheaper there than in the other stores they go there; they are just left to do as they like; they are free.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Does it make any difference in their employment as to where they deal or whether they deal with them? A. Nothing as I know.

Q. If a man refused to buy would he be dismissed? A. Not as I know of and I never heard anything that occurred through it.

Q. Do they sell to outsiders? A. Very seldom, it is only for their own benefit.

Q. You do not think it makes any difference to the men whether they buy there or not? A. So far as I know it does not.

Q. Do you think it is advisable for the men to deal there? A. I would say I know that what I can get cheaper from them than in any other store, I get it.

Q. You are a married man? A. Yes.

Q. Do you own your house? A. Yes.

Q. Can you give us an idea of how long it will take you to pay for it? A. The house cost me over \$2,000, the land and everything, and I paid for it in less than ten years out of the wages I earned.

Q. Have you been receiving all the time as good wages as you get now? A. No.

Q. How many in family have you to support? A. Three.

Q. Just the one child? A. Three children and the wife.

Q. Are there any of the children earning anything? A. No.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. How long has that grocery store been running? A. About five or six years I think. You can hardly call it a store, it has only a few articles it keeps for their own benefit.

Q. What would you call it? A. They buy from the store-keepers here in Amherst just to keep it handy sometimes.

Q. They make nothing out of it? A. Nothing at all.

Q. They keep it for the convenience of the men? A. They trade in the stores and some of the storekeepers have them to build houses and buy lumber, and they get produce from them and return it—barter and trade that way.

STELLARTON, 17th April, 1888.

MAURICE JOHNSTON, coal cutter, sworn and examined.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. In what mine are you employed? A. In the Drummond mine.

Q. How long have you been employed there? A. I have been employed there since 1881, with the exception of 8 or 9 months during that time.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. The general rule is to get down as near six o'clock in the morning as possible, and it is customary to get home—there is accommodation for the men to get up—at half-past three.

Q. And the rule is to get up at 3:30, and have you finished your day's work then? A. Yes; there are cases when the men cannot get away. The coal cutters try to get home at that time, but the mine is not supposed to be down until 5 o'clock.

Q. When all hands come out? A. Yes; men and boys.

Q. But as a rule coal cutters work from 6 to 3:30? A. Yes; only some of the cutters have to stay till 5 o'clock, or until they finish.

Q. About how much can the average coal cutter earn per day, taking one day with the other? A. In some places he can make more than he can in others, and the object is to make \$2 a day if possible.

Q. Do you think the cutters throughout the mine can average \$2 for every full day they work? A. No; I do not.

Q. About what would be the average do you think? A. I can hardly tell what the average would be.

Q. You would not like to fix the figure? A. No; I could not.

Q. In some places the coal is harder than in others? A. Yes.

Q. And in some places the seam is thicker than in others? A. Yes.

Q. Do the men, as a rule, get fairly equal opportunities of earning money? A. The most of the mines try to do that, but some are not particular. They try as much as possible to give all an equal chance, but it does not happen that they all get it.

Q. The price for cutting a ton of coal varies according to circumstances, I suppose? A. Yes; according to the size of the place, but they are not paid by the ton; they are paid by the box.

Q. Does the manager of the mine fix the rate absolutely, or does he fix it after consultation with the men themselves; I mean the rate which shall be paid to the men for cutting the coal in any of the particular places? A. He does in some instances.

Q. Do the men have any say in fixing the rate; that is, the miners themselves? A. Sometimes they have a say.

Q. Is it the feeling among the miners that the rate fixed is fairly just? A. Not always.

Q. Sometimes they think it is not exactly as it should be? A. Yes; sometimes they do think so.

Q. I suppose, owing to many circumstances it is impossible to make it absolutely just all round, is it not? A. It is at times.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Could you state any particular grievance or difficulty—that is, from your own standpoint—so that we can readily understand what you mean by those difficulties; state any particular difficulty? A. It is like this: when times are dull and when men are plenty, then the master absolutely fixes the price; when times are good and the men are not so plenty, and when the men are thoroughly organized, then they generally have something to say, and that is the way it goes; when the men are situated so that they can command a fair price they sometimes get it; and, as you are aware, they sometimes have to come out on strike to get what they think is just, and that is why we have strikes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. About how much time, taking one year with the other, have you worked in the last few years in the mine; how long has the mine been closed down? A. I am not prepared to answer that question as exact as I would like to do. I could have told you had I known that that question would be asked of me from my books. I think in the month of December we were slack.

Q. Does the mine ever absolutely shut down or is it only partially so? A. Only partially.

Q. Some of the men are always at work? A. Sometimes it is only for a day or two like when there is no ship in and no call for it; then the men might be stopped for a day, but generally some of the men are working in the mine.

Q. How many men work at one breast? A. Three as a general rule.

Q. Two miners and a helper? A. Yes.

Q. Do the men pay the helper? A. Yes.

Q. How much per day as a rule? A. \$1.30 is the standard price.

Q. Do the loaders in time become cutters themselves? A. Yes; if they have a desire to.

Q. What are the ages of the boys who drive underground? A. They begin to drive when big enough; the boys come in at 12 years of age to keep doors and there



are some boys you know yourself 12 years of age, as big and as strong as other boys of 14 or 15, when they usually at that age commence to drive and they keep driving till they are 18 sometimes.

Q. When the boys go attending doors, do you know what wages they receive?  
A. Yes.

Q. What? A. 50 cents a day.

Q. When a boy begins to drive, does he get an advance of pay? A. He is supposed to get an advance of 10 cents.

Q. That is 60 cents a day? A. Yes.

Q. So long as he remains driving does he get any increase of pay? A. In some cases they do, and I know of cases where they drove till 18 without, but there are other jobs, such as running and eaging or something like that after that.

Q. Do you know what they receive for that? A. I have known them to get \$1 for that—large, smart boys.

Q. Of 17 or 18? A. Yes; and from that up, they get 70 cents to a \$1, that is the exceptional cases; it is oftener the less. I know young men in the mine only getting 70 cents for eaging.

Q. When a boy gets old enough and strong enough to unload, does he get the \$1.30 at once or does he have to work at a lower rate at first? A. When he gets in the loading he gets \$1.30 a day at once, but he does not always get to loading at once.

Q. It is pretty hard work, is it not? A. Well, it is.

Q. Do they ever work double shift in the colliery? A. In some cases they do. It is necessary sometimes to work a double shift at sinking or so forth.

Q. When you work double shift do the men receive who work at night the same rate as the men working in the day? A. Yes; they are under contract and they make as much as under the circumstances they can make; they get as much as they can make and they are paid either by the box or by measure.

Q. How long is it since there was a difference between the men and their employers as to wages? A. Not so very long ago.

Q. That was caused, was it, by a reduction of wages? A. Yes.

Q. How was it settled? A. The men had to take just what the masters would give them.

Q. Were there any attempts made on their side at arbitration or conciliation?  
A. No.

Q. Were the men willing at that time to submit to arbitration? A. Undoubtedly.

Q. But they did not make any such proposal to the company or manager? A. Well, I think they did.

Q. Are you sure on that point? A. I know they were simply told that they had to take that or do without it, as that was all they would get.

Q. The manager at all events would not listen to any other proposal? A. He would not listen to any proposal; of course we were at him many times to try and make it more and showed him the reasonableness of it and so forth.

Q. Do you think that in such cases a board of arbitration would be a good thing? A. Yes.

Q. Would you favor a board of arbitration in which each side would select one and they a third, or would you prefer a Government board? A. I would prefer a Government board such as we had the other day.

Q. You would rather have a permanent board of arbitrators appointed by the Government to sit in all cases? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think that men, not miners, should in coal mining arbitrations sit on such board? A. I think the workingmen ought to have one to represent them to present their case.

Q. My question was as to obtaining your view as to whether such a board should sit and arbitrate on all cases? A. I would not care about them sitting in all cases, provided the Government always appointed a board when it was necessary and give the workingmen an opportunity to be heard before the board and a workingman on the board besides.

Q. Do you think that men, not miners, would be in a position to judge independently of a mining question so as to give a fair decision? A. Without receiving information—no.

Q. Supposing a board of strangers, none of whom were miners, were to come in here in case of a trade dispute, would they be able, after hearing testimony and examining the works, be able to form a just opinion and do justice between the men and the employers? A. I think fairly intelligent men would be able, after the case was properly and intelligently put before them, to do so.

Q. Was there any strike at the time you spoke of? A. No.

Q. The men accepted the reduction? A. Yes.

Q. What was the cause of the reduction? A. It was said that the price of coal was reduced in the market so as to make sales and therefore they had to reduce the cost of getting it out from the mine—that is the argument they used.

Q. Has there been any accident in your colliery? A. Yes.

Q. What were the causes of the accidents that have happened? A. You have all heard of the Drummond explosion.

Q. Apart from the explosions has there been any fatal accident? A. Yes; some.

Q. Did the roof ever come down? A. It is a very good roof. I think the most accidents have been from falls of coal after it was mined.

Q. Are these frequent now? A. No; not very frequent for a large mine.

Q. Is that due to defects in timbering or carelessness on the part of the men, or some other cause? A. No; it was not through defects in timbering.

Q. Are the men always as prudent as they ought to be? A. Well, as a general thing the men in the Drummond colliery are a very intelligent class of men as miners, I mean a very intelligent class of men, as well as knowing generally how to work coal; they know their business, I mean.

Q. Is the coal more liable to come down than in other mines? A. No.

Q. The gas is pretty bad in this mine, is it not? A. Well, there is gas in it as there is in most mines.

Q. If the mine is properly ventilated and properly provided with doors and ventilating shafts, can it with reasonable care be kept free from gas? A. Yes.

Q. When gas has accumulated has it been due to carelessness on somebody's part, or has it been due to causes that could not have been guarded against, that is with reasonable prudence and forethought? A. It has accumulated from carelessness on the part of some one.

Q. Do you think the party or parties responsible for that accumulation of gas has or have been the managers or the miners themselves? A. The miner has nothing to do with the ventilating of the mine or the working of it in any shape any more than the digging and the filling of the coal.

Q. How many explosions have there been in your time which have resulted fatally? A. None in my time.

Q. Have there been any small explosions which have burned anybody or caused any accident not fatal? A. No.

Q. You think that since 1881, since you have been in the mine, that reasonable care has been taken to keep the mine free from gas? A. I worked in that mine, you know, a long time before.

Q. Well, say since 1881? A. I think they have tried all they know how to keep the mine free from gas since 1881.

Q. Do you ever use open lamps in the mine? A. No; well, there are a few exceptions, but no open lamps are used at the faces. I mean there are a few spots where the safety lamp would not show sufficient light, and there they use a light, but there is quite a draft at the place I mean.

Q. There would not be any accumulation of gas there? A. No; you would not expect it, as there is a draft there.

Q. Do you think many of the miners accumulate property or have money invested? A. Quite a number of the miners own houses.



Q. About what rent would a miner expect to pay who does not own his own house—what is a fair rent? A. They have to pay more than they think is fair.

Q. About what do they pay as a rule? A. I do not live in a company's house, but I know some pay \$2.50 a month.

Q. How many rooms would they have for \$2.50 a month? A. In some of the houses there are four rooms.

Q. Those are the houses belonging to the company? A. Yes; and there are some with two rooms.

Q. What would they pay for such houses? A. I do not know.

Q. Can you get as good and as cheap houses from outsiders as you can from the company? A. Well, it is about the same, I think.

Q. Are outsider's houses as convenient to the mine? A. Some of them are more so.

Q. Does the company supply miners with free coal? A. No.

Q. Do they charge the miners the same price as they do other people? A. No; they do not.

Q. About what do they charge? A. It is about half to miners and coal cutters.

Q. What do they pay for a load? A. Sixty cents a load for 12 bushels, I think, or half a ton; of course you have to pay for hauling over and above that.

Q. The hauling is charged for according to distance, I suppose? A. Exactly; \$1.20 a ton I think it is.

Q. Could you form an opinion as to whether the cost of living is greater or less here than it is say at Halifax? A. I think it would be less than Halifax.

Q. That is for the ordinary necessities of life and for clothing? A. Yes; I think so; that would be my opinion of it.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Have you any idea of what the cost of a house which rents at \$2.50 a month would be—; that is what it would cost to build it? A. About \$200.

Q. It is supplied with outhouses, is it? A. No; nothing.

Q. Is it well drained around from the cellar? A. Yes; it will be if you make the drain and dig it yourself.

Q. No extra allowance will be given for that? A. No.

Q. Is there any health inspector or any physician who goes around and inspects the houses? A. I could not say.

Q. Did you ever see one going around? A. No; I never knew one. I cannot say that these I see going around were the health inspectors.

Q. Do you know if there has been any disease frequently in these houses, such as diphtheria, for instance? A. I cannot say I do more than others.

Q. Are these houses built on stone walls? A. On blocks.

Q. Are some of them below the level of the ground? A. No; most of them are on the level with the ground or a little above the ground.

Q. Do you know any that are not? A. No; I do not.

Q. You are paid by the box for mining coal are you? A. Yes; in taking the pillars out after they drive in the heading, and when they get in the boundary, those places are paid by the box and the others are paid by the cubic yard.

Q. If the coal is dirty is it docked? A. I do not know; if it is it is not much.

Q. Is any of it done? A. I do not know of any cases of late where they have been docked for filling bad coal.

Q. Have you weekly, fortnightly or monthly payments? A. We are measured on the last day of every month and we have a sub-pay day on the 5th or 6th of the month and the rest on the 20th or thereabouts.

Q. Is that system satisfactory to the men generally? A. There are not many complaints about it.

Q. Explain to us the reason of any complaints? A. Some think it would be better to have weekly payments.



Q. Do you think it would be better to have weekly pays? A. That is my opinion too.

Q. Do you think it would entail an extra amount of expense on the company to have weekly payments? A. It might a little, but it would be a great benefit to the workmen.

Q. Can you point out particularly the benefit it would be to the workingman to have his pay weekly? A. Do you know the benefit of buying with ready money and getting on trust?

Q. Yes? A. Well, it would be that much benefit.

Q. Do you know if any of the men have been blacklisted for any particular action they have taken? A. Yes; I do.

Q. Has it been represented to the manager? A. Yes; it has.

Q. Has he given any satisfactory explanation? A. No.

Q. Well, in the case of a man being blacklisted what particular action is likely to be taken? A. The case I have reference to is not in the mine I am working in at all.

Q. In case of sickness or in case of the death of a cutter or a laborer would any assistance be rendered by the mining company except the doctor's attendance? A. Not as I know of; they are not in the habit of doing anything like that.

Q. There is no fund to which the cutters themselves contribute and the management also contribute to assist people who are sick or disabled in any way in the mine? A. No.

Q. Do you think the men would approve of such a system; something like they have in Springhill? A. I think the men would—I know they would.

Q. Do you think it would be a benefit to them? A. Yes; it would.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Does the company own any stores? A. No.

Q. They do not supply the men with goods of any description? A. No.

Q. With oil or powder? A. With powder and oil if they wish it; I believe the company furnishes the lamp and the oil every morning.

Q. Do you not pay for your oil and lamps? A. No.

Q. You pay for the powder? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think you can get it as cheap from the company as from outside persons? A. The company has always furnished the powder in this locality as far as I know, they have a good profit—you have to pay more at some places than at others—you have to pay 20 cents a pound for blasting powder.

Q. But apart from the powder the company does not supply any of the necessities of life, dry goods, groceries, &c.? No; they find nothing but the tools and the lamp and you have to pay for the oil can.

Q. But you are absolutely free to deal wherever you please? A. Yes; wherever we chose to do so.

Q. Do you think it makes any difference to the men whether they live in company's houses or in other person's houses? A. No; I cannot say it does.

Q. You do not think that the men who live in the houses belonging to the company are at all favored over the other men? A. No; I do not think they are.

Q. Do the men pay for the doctors? A. Yes.

Q. How much do you pay per month for the doctor? A. Some pay through the office; you are not compelled to pay through the office.

Q. Is there anything deducted from your pay? A. If you pay for a certain man, the colliery doctor, you can pay for him and the money is taken off your pay at the office.

Q. How much is the monthly allowance for the doctor? A. I do not know they would force you to pay for him; you can pay for him if you like, but I know they collect it through the office if you say so. I think you pay 42 cents a man.

Q. Do you know if the boys pay towards the doctor too? A. I do not know; my boys do not pay; the boys may pay but I do not know.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. In dealing with a store do you deal on your own credit or do you give orders on the company? A. You deal on your own credit.

Q. There are no orders given on the company to secure the merchants? A. No.

Q. Then does the merchant merely charge the miner and look to him for the pay? A. From my knowledge of the matter I know that they will take orders at the office for any of the merchants, but whether it would be necessary for a stranger going there and wanting to receive goods who had no friends in the locality, it is possible then he would have to give an order on the office for them.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. As a rule if the miners get credit do they give orders or pay at the end of the month themselves? A. As a rule they pay themselves.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. At the time of the reduction of the wages did the men take any steps to find out whether the market price of coal had fallen or did they take the company's statement that prices had fallen in the market? A. They knew and believed that the market price had fallen, but not to justify the reduction made.

Q. The reduction was greater than the fall in price? A. Yes.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. For what reason were the men you have said were blacklisted so blacklisted? A. I was asked if I knew if any were blacklisted and I said it was not where I was.

Q. But do you know the reason why they were blacklisted? A. Because they took an active part in the last strike at the Acadia Company's Mines.

Q. Did these parties act as spokesmen for the miners?

The CHAIRMAN—That is hardly a fair question.

WITNESS—I need not answer any question, I suppose, that might prejudice me. I did not think I would be questioned on such points from the bill I got, but there are many things on it I can speak about.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What are they? Q. There is the lien law and the garnisheeing of wages.

Q. Is there anything of that kind here? A. Well, the workingman in this country has no protection whatever for his wages; there is no lien law in this country giving a miner a lien for his wages. For instance, if a coal mine was mortgaged and the workingman worked in it for twelve months and without receiving his pay, and then the mine was foreclosed, he would get nothing.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What kind of a law would you require—that the wages should be a first lien on the property, no matter what mortgages there were on it? A. Certainly.

Q. You think the workmen ought to be paid and allow the other creditors to come in after? A. I think the men who produce the money by their work have the first and best right to it.

Q. Under the laws of Nova Scotia has the workman to come in as a general creditor? A. I do not think the workman comes in unless he is a mechanic. It has been roughly estimated that workmen in Nova Scotia have lost \$100,000 from the lack of law to give him the wages he has earned.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Have not the men any claim at all? A. No claim at all. Well, for example, the Government stepped up into Cape Breton here and took over the mine and the men got nothing. Then take Londonderry—there the miners lost thousands and got nothing, and yet the Government secured what belonged to them, and they stopped work, and they would do the same with this company if they did not pay as

they contracted, and the workmen would have to go without a cent; and in numerous places in Nova Scotia and Cape Breton the workingmen, through the want of a law, have been defrauded out of their wages.

Q. The garnishee law is a bad law, too? Is the garnisheeing of wages frequent here among the miners? A. We have known of some cases.

Q. Is it not a fact that miners' wages cannot be garnisheed until judgment is regularly had, the same as in other cases of indebtedness? A. I do not know from personal experience, but I have known men who have had all their money taken from them and nothing left to them to live upon.

Q. I ask if it is true that wages below the sum of \$20 cannot be garnisheed under the present law of Nova Scotia, and would the miners be benefited by being paid weekly, so that never more than \$20 should be due them at one time? A. That would prevent the garnisheeing of wages, of course.

Q. Your opinion is that if the men were paid weekly, it would be a benefit in that respect? A. I do not look at it in that respect, because I did not know that was the law itself, that wages less than \$20 were not to be garnisheed. In other respects weekly payments would benefit us, so that the workingmen would always have ready money to shop with.

Q. Do you think a man that runs an account does not get as good value as if he went with cash in his hand? A. In some cases, no.

Q. Are there any other things you wish to speak of—of the employer's liability—I see you have it here? A. We have no Act of the English kind in this country.

Q. That would be connected with a lien law? A. How would it be connected with a lien law—that would be with respect to wages.

Q. You mean with respect to accidents? A. Yes; the employers' liability in case of accidents.

Q. If a man gets hurt through no fault of his own but through negligence on the part of the employer or employers' agents or through defective machinery, has he no claim for compensation? A. They never get it.

Q. Have you known any case to be carried into court for damages in such cases? A. Yes; there was a boy hurt on the railway, but not in a mine; I do not know whether that is different or not.

Q. Did he get damages? A. I believe he did.

Q. But you do not know whether a man injured in a mine gets damages? A. I do not know any cases being brought into court except when an explosion took place in No. 4 slope. I think he got burned, but I don't remember the cause distinctly.

Q. Do you know whether he got damages or not? A. I do not now remember how the case was settled; but I know that there are lots of men lying under the ground here and sixty odd were killed at the Drummond colliery and never any damages allowed for any of them.

Q. You do not know whether any of the cases were taken into court on account of those deaths? A. None that I am aware of.

Q. Do you know of any case where damages were paid? A. I do not know of any case wherein damages were paid.

Q. Are there any other matters on which you wish to speak? A. There is the foreign contract labor and the apprentice system and the hours and rates of wages, but I will give some of the other gentlemen a chance to speak on these.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Can you tell us about how many hands are employed in the colliery? A. About 300 or over that, men and boys.

Q. Do you not know how many boys among the 300 men? A. I could not tell you to-day—some time ago there was in the vicinity of 80 or 90 boys.

Q. Did you ever work on Sunday? A. Not in this country; I did not.



NEIL A. NICKERSON, miner, sworn and examined.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. What mine do you work in? A. The Albion mine.

Q. You have heard the testimony of the preceding witness? A. I have.

Q. Do you corroborate everything you have heard? A. Yes; I do.

Q. Is there anything at all that you differ in or anything at all you can advance which has not been brought out in the questions? A. I would allow that the average wages are about \$1.50; they are good miners; there are men who work the year round for less than that; there are a good many deficient places, and it might happen that some men are in those deficient places all the year round. I am in a place now where I make \$1.25 with hard work, and in another place near to I have made \$2 a day.

Q. But just now you average \$1.25? A. Yes.

Q. Would that be for the whole month round? A. Yes; if I am in that place all the month round.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you think there is any discrimination with regard to the company putting certain men in bad places or others in good places, or do they try to make it equal all around? A. I do not think there is any discrimination, but there are these division places, and if he works on those places and were to ask for an advance he would not get it.

Q. The men who are making good wages, say this month, may, it is possible, strike some place where they would not get as good wages all the month? A. It may be that for six months he would get these places and again he might not be in for a month.

Q. Is that from any design on the part of the company? A. I think for these deficient places the company should pay more.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. If some of the men get into a good place—a fat job—would the manager reduce the price of the box? A. \$2 is the most he could make.

Q. If a man were to strike a bad place would he increase the rate? A. No; he must put up with it.

Q. What is the opinion you have formed as to arbitrations on matters in dispute? A. I think the Bill passed in the Local House this year is a good one—three appointed by the Government, one by the company and one by the workmen.

Q. You are satisfied with that? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Compulsory arbitration? A. Yes.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. What is your opinion as to the education of boys? A. I agree with one of the witnesses that a boy should be educated to read and write before he could get into a mine.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have you any ideas of your own by which you think the men could be benefited? A. I have read that a better lamp has been invented and one that throws three times the light that we have from the present lamps. I have seen the lamp with the boss. There is too many wires—bars—in it, that is, in the one we use now, and I passed the remark why could not we get those lamps, and the answer I got was, would I buy a new hat when the old one would do me—and I think it is very unjust when they find fault with us for the coal.

Q. Have the men as a body or are there only individual cases where they have complained as to the imperfect lamps they work with? A. I went as one of a deputa-

tion to interview the manager, and we asked for the Glennly lamp, as it shows a better light, and he told us that the Glennly lamp was not safe.

Q. Do you know if he was right in that assertion; have they had any experience with the Glennly to know whether it is safe or not? A. There is an extra current of air and if there is a certain amount of gas travelling in that air the Glennly explodes at so many degrees less than the other lamp, but if it is well ventilated and no bad working places I believe the Glennly lamp is safe enough, and if so I think we should have them and not fine us for stone.

Q. Then as to the effects of the organization? A. Since we were organized there has been a law which was obtained through the representations of our representatives which enacts that instead of one inspector of mines we have now one and a deputy in Nova Scotia and Cape Breton, which I think was required.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. You think that was a step in the right direction? A. Yes; a gain by the labor organization—and this Bill brought before the Local House was another step in the right direction.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. You think these were obtained by the organization? A. Yes; it was the means.

Q. You think they are the direct effects of organizing? A. Yes; they are. Before we had no organization of the kind. I know when a boy in the pit there was no law or system, but now these things are all arranged better and each man gets an equal share. Then, the manner of firing is better managed, too, but I think the law is deficient in a good many things yet.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you not think a lamp would be safer than lighting with a match? A. I do not know there is much of a difference—one will set off the gas as much as the other.

Q. Is there anything else you would like to give us your views upon? A. Well, let some of the rest speak on the immigration. I am greatly opposed to it; it seeks to degrade the morals of the people—these Belgians they bring out. I do not believe in assisted immigration at all. They are only paupers they are bringing into the country. I have seen them come out as farmers' help, &c., and then go to work on the Canadian Pacific Railway and work at \$1.25 a day. Then there is the indenture system, I think that would be a great benefit. I think the fortnightly system of pays would be a saving of ten per cent. both to buyer and seller; it would be an advantage and all would be better off.

Q. Do the employers give any reason why they pay monthly in place of fortnightly or weekly, what excuse do they give? A. They allow that they have too much work to pay fortnightly; when we got fortnightly pay here they allowed it made too much work in the office and that it was too hard work to get it out, and then when they got the chance they took it from us.

Q. Is there anything else? Q. Well, I see here "Statistics of labor, &c." I believe men are deceived and are brought to this country from other countries by misrepresentations, and if statistics as to labor were provided, then the people would know what they were doing in the old country and they would not be deceived in that respect.

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ROBERT GRAY, miner, sworn and examined.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Were you employed at the Acadia Coal Company's mines at Westville up to December last? A. I have been idle since up to a few days ago when I came here, and I can only speak of that time as I have only worked a few shifts in the other place.

Q. Why did you leave the Acadia Company's mine? A. I was put out.

Q. By whom? A. By the agent of the work.

Q. Do you know why you were dismissed? A. Well, no.

Q. Were other men dismissed at the same time? A. Yes.

Q. Many? A. Well, about something in the neighborhood of 30.

Q. And you do not know what the cause of this dismissal was? A. I could not get them to tell me what it was for; he did not need my services, that was all.

Q. Were you and the other 30 men parties to taking any action in any direction you think may have given offence? A. No; unless it might have been that of being on the committee the time of the strike.

Q. Were the whole of the 30 on that committee? A. No.

Q. What was the cause of it? Was the colliery overstocked at the time? A. No; not more than it was.

Q. You do not know then what was the reason why they should want to reduce the force? A. Well, the demand was not so much, but in former times all the hands were employed.

Q. Have you reason to think that you were discharged because you had taken part in any labor organization? A. I do.

Q. What reason have you for thinking that? A. Because he took most of them on and left out whoever took a prominent part.

Q. The most of them were taken back? A. Yes.

Q. After how long a time? A. Well, some a month and some a fortnight and so on that way.

Q. Did you apply to be taken back? A. I did.

Q. What answer did you receive? A. He could not tell me when he would need my services.

Q. How long had you worked there? A. I had worked there 19 years successively.

Q. Were the other men who failed in getting back as prominent as you had been in this labor organization? A. Something similar I guess.

Q. None of the prominent men were taken back? A. No.

Q. Do you think that any steps were taken to prevent you from getting employment elsewhere than at that colliery? A. I never tried; every place was closed at the time.

Q. But you have now got employment? A. Yes.

Q. You do not think any steps were taken then to keep you from being employed in your present position? A. No; I do not think it.

Q. Have you known other men besides those you have spoken of that were dismissed under similar circumstances? A. As far as my recollection goes I cannot say that I do; but I do remember something of a man being discharged for speaking for their rights.

Q. As far as you know does the manager object to employing men belonging to labor organizations? A. It would look like it. I do not know whether he does or not.

Q. Do they enquire whether a man belongs to a labor organization or not? A. I believe they do. I know that any man that don't belong to the union gets work pretty sharp.

Q. Do you think that preference is given to men who do not belong to labor organizations? A. I do; that is my opinion.

Q. And your opinion is based upon your observation from what is actually done among the workmen? A. Yes.

Q. Would that observation be extended over a number of years? A. From the formation of the union.

Q. How long is that? A. Nine years.

Q. Have you heard other men make like observations? A. Yes.

Q. It is a matter of belief among the men so far as your knowledge goes, that the management puts men not belonging to unions at an advantage over union men? A. Ever since this agent has been there.



Q. Do the men of your union object to working with non-union men? A. No.

Q. You do not make any discrimination? A. No.

Q. You heard the testimony given by the last witness? A. I did.

Q. So far as you are acquainted with the facts, do you approve of what he said?

A. Well, I never worked in that mine.

Q. In general so far as his remarks applied to you? A. Yes.

Q. The rates in the Acadia mines, are they about the same? A. About the same; yes.

Q. What do you think would be about the fair average earnings per day of a good average coal cutter in the Acadia mines? A. \$2, I think, would be the average for a day's work. I mean that would be a fair average if the mine was not overcrowded.

Q. That is over and above what he pays for powder? A. Yes; that is when the mine is not over-crowded.

Q. How many days do you think a coal cutter would average in a year—taking one year with another? A. Including strikes?

Q. No; leave the strikes out, apart from that, how many days would he be able to work, that is how many days would there be work for him? A. Of course, I cannot speak of years formerly, but we worked pretty steady last year only for the three and a half month's strike; if the strike had not taken place we might not have got any more than we did.

Q. What was the cause of that strike? A. Well, the reduction.

Q. Was the same explanation given of the reduction as that given in the Drummond mine, that the price of coal had fallen in the market? A. No; I do not think it.

Q. What explanation was made? A. That they were paying too much.

Q. That was all? A. Yes.

Q. Was any offer of arbitration made? A. There was.

Q. By whom? A. The men.

Q. What did the management say to that? A. Well, they partly agreed to it.

Q. What steps were taken? A. Well, the next time we went back he would have nothing to do with it.

Q. They refused to appoint an arbitrator? A. Yes.

Q. Did they give any reason for their refusal? A. No.

Q. Just simply said they were not ready for arbitration? A. Yes.

Q. Were the men desirous of having it arbitrated? A. Yes; we were anxious to go to arbitration and to work.

Q. How was it settled at last? A. It was made partly a compromise between the men, he wanted to take so much off, it was about half I think, or something like that; we made a compromise that way.

Q. That was after striking three and a half months? A. Yes.

Q. Was it that time that you and the thirty others were told that their services were not required? A. As far as the language of them in charge went I would say—yes.

Q. But you did work for some time? A. Yes; I worked from that up to December—that was from the middle of May up to December, but what with the threats of the underground manager that as soon as they got a chance we would have to leave—and he made all that kind of statements.

Q. But did you ever hear any threatening statement from him? A. No; not from him. He took good care he would not say that; but I believe the men, because they carried the threat into effect.

Q. Are you now speaking of what some of the men working there told you? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know of any foreign miners having been brought here to this country? A. Yes.

Q. How many miners were brought at one time? A. I could not say. I think about 20 or 30 came at the one time.

Q. Do you know whether there is any law in Nova Scotia compelling foreign workmen brought to Nova Scotia to fill contract if contract is made out of the province? A. I think there is no law.

Q. Do you think there is any law forbidding the bringing in of workmen under contract? A. I think there is a law spoken of or passed to that effect.

Q. You do not know? A. I would not say positively.

Q. Would you desire to see a law prohibiting the importation of foreign laborers under contract? A. I would.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Where did these miners come from that were brought here? A. From Belgium, I believe.

Q. You said a little while ago that non-union men would have the preference for work in the Acadia Company's mines? A. Yes; they do.

Q. How would the manager know whether they were union or non-union men? A. He would know if he asked them.

Q. Do they make it a rule to ask that question? A. I cannot say as to that—so far as you can judge they do—I know of union men applying and not getting work, and non-union men getting it.

Q. Are the pay days the same as in the other mines? A. No.

Q. How often are you paid? A. Once a month. We had sub-pay the same as the others, but after the strike they discontinued it.

Q. Has the company a store? A. No.

Q. Have wages increased this last five years? A. No.

Q. Have they decreased? A. Yes; I should think so.

Q. How much per cent. have they decreased these five years? A. I could not say just now.

Q. Has the cost of living increased? A. This winter it has.

Q. Did you ever work in any other mines? A. Yes.

Q. In the old country? A. In the old country, in Cape Breton and in the old mines here too, those old ones down here.

Q. Are the wages more or less in the old country than here? A. I could not tell you that, as I was only a boy then.

Q. How many men would be employed in the Acadia mines, say last December? A. About 150 boys and all, or, maybe, 160.

Q. How many boys in that number? A. Not many; say, twenty.

Q. Do you think the staff has been increased since then? A. No.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Do you think the importation of foreign labor has tended to decrease wages? A. Yes; I do; the more laborers the more wages are bound to go down.

Q. That is by overstocking? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever made any advances to the managers toward getting fortnightly or weekly pay? A. Yes; we did.

Q. What was the result? A. We did not get it.

Q. What was the reason given? A. It was the additional expense on the company—they would have to hire another clerk—and we thought it better to let it go, as we understood a law was to be passed by the Local House for fortnightly payments, or we might have fought it better only for that.

Q. Are the majority of the men in favor of weekly or fortnightly payments? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think there are any advantages in the monthly system of paying? A. I should think not.

Q. Do you think it tends towards habits of economy on the part of the miners to have weekly payments? A. Yes; I do, because I think it would put money into their pockets and do away with the credit system. You know who pays his bills

has to pay, too, for the ones that don't pay, for—everyone who deals in a shop must pay for themselves and the others that don't pay, for the merchant must live.

Q. Do you live in a house owned by the company? A. No; I live in my own house.

Q. Do you know the average rent of one of the company's houses? A. The last witness told you that.

Q. It was not the same mines? A. I think the rent is something similar; I think they have better houses at the Acadia mines than at the Drummond.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Are they new houses? A. No; but they keep them in better repair and there is more accommodation—more rooms in some of them.

Q. Are there any fines imposed in the Acadia mines? A. Yes; any amount of them.

Q. For what? A. Well, for stony coal.

Q. Is the coal weighed or is it by the tub? A. We are paid in the rooms by the cubic yard and in the pillars so much a box, and they dock for stone there.

Q. It is generally agreed that if a miner fills stone he will be checked? A. Yes; we entered into an agreement with the agent to that effect, and if 28 pounds, of stone, 20 cents is checked off the box.

Q. Who is the judge as to whether the box should be docked? A. The men at the screen, I guess.

Q. Is there any man appointed by the men to superintend that work also? A. No.

Q. Have the men ever suggested that they should have a man there as well? A. We have grumbled enough, but that is all. We have grumbled about the fines being too heavy.

Q. Are they very frequent? A. In some places they have been as high as \$5 a man in some months for fines.

Q. What becomes of the coal? A. The general manager could tell; I do not know; we have been at him two or three times to get part of it for any man disabled. We used to make a collection through the mine for men sick or disabled, and we went repeatedly and asked for a part of the fines to help these men, but never got any. The last collection I went through I went and asked him for \$5; it was for a man who was off for months, but I did not happen to get it.

Q. There is no fund provided for persons who get disabled or who are sick from working in the mine to which the management contributes? A. No; they like to grasp everything they can get.

Q. Is there any benefits among the men? A. We had a benefit in connection with the union at one time; we used to pay \$2 a year.

Q. Are collections very frequent among the men? A. Yes; mostly every month.

Q. Do you pay poor rates besides? A. Yes; we pay on our property.

Q. Is it very heavy? A. It is rather heavy sometimes.

Q. Does the poor rate generally go to men who are not miners? A. To every person.

Q. The majority are not miners? A. They are not miners at all I hardly ever knew a miner in it.

Q. Is there anything else you can suggest to the Commission—do you think the workmen invest their savings to as much advantage as other people? A. I do not think they ever get any to invest, all they get is the trouble to know to where to go with it to pay their bills—I think that is the most of it—that any men with families.

Q. Do you know any person who has worked for years who has the means of support derived from the mines? A. Some who have a large family of boys have accumulated some.

Q. Do you know any who had not any means by them? A. Old persons?



Q. Yes? A. No; I could not say, there may be some. Some people make \$1 go a great way sometimes; some women will make \$1 go as far as \$2 with others. It depends a good deal upon the women and the men too of course, but the majority have nothing.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Can you tell us why over-crowding reduces the wages earned by the miner?  
A. Yes.

Q. Cannot a miner earn as much when it is overcrowded as at any other time?

A. No; in place of three in a place they put in six.

Q. Cannot they work as hard with six in it as with only three? A. No; they cannot as they are in one another's way; it takes two to watch. In pillar work the most of the work done in the Acadia mines these last years, I have seen eight men in a pillar where they used to put four. There are places where only one man can work, as the coal might come with a rush and you would get in danger of being hurt and the others have to stand back and let only one man of the lot work; and then again when the pit is overcrowded they are not able to hoist the coal out for them all and where we could be making \$2 we don't make \$1.

Q. When the mine is overcrowded the appliance for lifting the coal is not sufficient for the number of men employed? A. Yes; that is it. There was one thing I forgot to tell you about as to our services not being required. The other men in that place were willing that we should get back and have a share of the work and they would give us a chance to go in days for them but he would not hear of that; he wanted to get rid of us.

Q. He refused to divide the work he had there among the men? A. Yes; in former times the men doubled up together to give work to all.

Q. Is there anything else you wish to tell us about affecting miners; that is, any grievance under which these men labor? A. I cannot say just at present what else there is.

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NEAL H. NICKERSON, miner, sworn and examined.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are the statements made respecting the Drummond and Acadia mines correct as regards the Albion mines? A. I could not say, as I do not work there.

Q. About what would be the fair average earnings of a good fair coal cutter in the Albion mine? A. During the last three years, I think I am safe in saying that the wages would not average \$1 for every working day in the year; of course, there are various causes operating, such as slackness of work, slackness of trade and other causes.

Q. For every day you work how much do you think would be a fair average of the earnings, taking an average man? A. Under certain circumstances, that is when the mine is not overcrowded, I would think the average would go near \$1.50—of course I have seen it far less.

Q. Your opinion is that the average man did not average over \$1? A. Not over \$1.50 when the mine is not overcrowded.

Q. Taking the year through, do you not earn \$300 a year? A. I do not think this last three years it would average anything over that; of course I am not exact in my statements; I only give as far as I know.

Q. Does your company keep any store? A. No.

Q. They do not supply goods of any sort to the men? A. No.

Q. Only powder? A. That is all.

Q. Does the company own houses? A. Yes.

Q. What would be the average rent of the houses owned by the company? A. It varies from \$1.20 to \$2.50.

Q. How many rooms in the houses rented at \$1.20? A. There are three rooms and a porch.

Q. And those that rent at \$2.50; how many rooms are there? A. In the house I am living in there are 5 rooms, there is an up stairs, but it is not fit to live there.

Q. Is the house pretty warm? A. It is not very warm.

Q. Does the company give you coal? A. Yes.

Q. Free? A. We pay \$1.20 a ton besides hauling.

Q. And the hauling is charged for according to the distance? A. Yes; I think so.

Q. Have you had any strikes in your colliery? A. Yes; we had one which terminated in May. It lasted from January till 15th May. It was taken part in by all the men except a few who worked till February.

Q. What was the cause of that strike? A. A reduction.

Q. Was that reduction general throughout all the mines in the neighborhood? A. No.

Q. How did it terminate? A. Of course he accepted our offer—but our offer was less than we had before we came out on strike.

Q. It was a compromise then? A. Yes.

Q. Were there any efforts made to arbitrate the matter? A. Yes; we offered to arbitrate it.

Q. What did the manager say to that? A. First, he got a telegram from the president that he would arbitrate under maximum figures, but not on the figure we came out for. I might say that it was not a strike on our part; it was a lock-out. He warned us that after two weeks' time our services would not be required, and when we went to see him, he said the work would have to be done at a reduction of ten cents per ton.

Q. Then, practically, I take it, his answer was that he would arbitrate to see what the reduction should be? A. Yes; he baffled us, and at last we saw that he would not arbitrate at all. He thought we would refuse it.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Are your pay days the same in that mine as in the others? A. Yes; we are paid once a month.

Q. What date are you generally paid on? A. The fifteenth.

Q. Are you paid in full at that time? A. We are paid for the whole month, but there is always two weeks' back time. We are paid for the month past.

Q. Has there been many accidents in your time? A. No; except the explosion in 1880, when 44 men were killed and there was six killed before that.

Q. Is there any system of fines in your mines? A. Yes; for stony coals.

Q. Is that the only thing you are fined for? A. Of course they fine for damage to lamps and oil cans.

Q. Do the lamps belong to the mine? A. Yes; that is they belong to the company.

Q. What is the fine imposed in case of damage? A. If the gauze is damaged it is \$3, while the price of the gauze is only 80 cents.

Q. What is the price of the lamp? A. I could not very well tell. They are what they call the Glenny Lamp and when the miners bought them I think they were \$3.

Q. Did I not understand you to say that you were fined \$3? A. Yes; for punishment.

Q. You were fined \$5 more than the price of the lamp? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Is it not understood that the excessive fine is caused from the danger caused by explosion? A. Yes.

By Mr. KIRWIN:—

Q. What becomes of these fines? A. The company gets them; I do not know what becomes of them.

Q. How many men are employed in that mine? A. I could not say. There are so many in a gang. The last three or four weeks there have been 22 and 12 gone out to the North-West Territories, and next Thursday there are 34; they are backward and forward mostly; they mostly all go because the light is so bad. The lamps are bad and that causes the most of the fines; for the men loading the coal cannot see what kind it is and in consequence they are fined for it, but if they had a good lamp they could see what they were doing.

Q. Do you think the men take as much care as they can not to send up such coals? A. I think in general they do.

Q. Then you think the cause of it being sent up is insufficient light? A. I have not the slightest doubt of it.

By Mr. KIRWIN:—

Q. The men would have no object in sending it up knowing it would be docked? A. Certainly they would not.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Did you ever complain of the want of proper light for loading the coals? A. Yes; we did make complaint.

Q. Did you ever get any answer about it? A. No; no satisfactory one. The first lamps we had were not so bad as these; these are only half the candle light and they do not consider the Glenney safe but it gives more light.

Q. Is there anything else you wish to speak on? A. No more than the sanitary laws. Whoever is responsible for that they never look after them; the houses are neglected to a great extent indeed; they are not looked after enough.

By Mr. KIRWIN:—

Q. Are there any very young boys working in the mine? A. I would not say any are there under 12, but I would suggest that if you think it is proper, that no boy should be employed who could not read and write, and that might be the means of getting careless parents to get their children a proper education, for some parents are very careless about their children and never look after their education at all.

J. W. READ, miner, Albion mines, sworn and examined.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. You heard the testimony of the last witness? A. Yes.

Q. Is it about correct within your knowledge? A. Yes.

Q. Have there been any men dismissed from the employment in that mine, do you think, because they have taken part in any labor organization? A. I do not know of any.

Q. Have there been any strikes or lock-outs at the mine? A. There was last year; a winter ago.

Q. Was it a strike or a lock-out? A. It was a lock-out.

Q. You were notified that there would be a reduction of wages, were you? A. Yes.

Q. How was it settled? A. They compromised and the men accepted a certain price.

Q. That was less than you had before? A. Yes; in some places; most of the places it was a less price.

Q. Were any offers of arbitration made? A. Yes.

Q. By whom? A. By the men.

Q. What did the manager say to that offer? A. Well, he accepted at first and afterwards backed out.

Q. Have you anything to add to the testimony of the last witness from the Albion mine? A. I cannot say I have.



By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you find the lamps used sufficient to give the necessary light? A. No; they are not; no man can see properly with the light they give.

Q. You think it is difficult to discover stone in the coals with such light? A. Well, anything small will go in with the shovel and you could not see it, and that should not be deducted, for it is almost impossible to load clean coal with the light.

Q. Do you not think it possible to use the electric light in mines? A. I can hardly say; in some parts it might but I do not see how it could be all through. I can hardly answer that question.

Q. You do not know of it being tried? A. No.

Q. I mean the incandescent light and not the arc? A. Of course it could be used to a certain extent.

Q. I suppose the wires could be guarded along the course and carried along the tops of the galleries without the danger of being broken could they not? A. I could not answer that.

Q. At all events if the men had better light they could earn more money and send up cleaner coal? A. Yes; that is in the pit I am in at present.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Is there a better lamp than the one you are using at present? A. I hear of a better lamp and I think there is a better lamp.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you know of your own knowledge? A. Well, I never worked with it, but I think I have seen it. I have never worked with it or tried it personally.

Q. Are there any other difficulties spoken of besides those with regard to your pay or anything like that; do you get all your pay in cash? A. Yes; but we would sooner have it every fortnight or week—it would be much better for the workmen.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your estimate of the daily earnings of coal cutters when the works are at full time on an average? A. It is pretty hard to answer that question.

Q. Do you think he would earn \$2 a day? A. No; he might make \$1.30 for each day he worked, that is what I make and I worked 24 days in that month.

Q. Did you work full time? A. Yes; every day I work.

Q. Can you remember the full amount of your pay for that last month? A. I had \$24 and some odd cents, and then I had some coal besides that.

Q. Did I understand you to say that you worked 24 days? A. Yes; I did so and I made the average \$1.33 or 34 a day.

Q. But that is less than your usual earnings? A. Yes.

Q. What has been your usual earnings one month with the other since the strike? A. \$1.30 to \$1.60.

Q. If you earn \$1.50 do you think you are doing fairly well? A. No; certainly not.

Q. You think you ought to make more? A. Yes; up to \$2 for every day we work, that is for a faithful day's work.

Q. Do you earn more than \$1.50 taking one day with another, and do not you think that is a fair average? A. Yes; I do all round, and this is more than we have been earning this last while back.

Q. Do the men at your mine employ a doctor? A. Yes.

Q. Do you contribute towards him? A. Yes; 42 cents a month.

Q. Do all pay that? A. Yes; the young boys pay 30 cents, that is those who have not a house.

Q. The little chaps of 15 or 16 do they pay? A. I have know young fellows 15 and 16 having to pay 30 cents.

Q. Does the doctor supply medicines as well as advice? A. Not all the medicine he does some.

Q. If a man broke a limb, for instance, and had to call in assistance for consultation, &c., would there be any extra charge? A. I do not think so, I never knew a case of the sort.

Q. How much if anything extra does he charge for childbirths? A. \$3 I think.

Q. Are there many of the men who own houses? A. I think a few.

Q. You do not? A. No.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Have the men anything to do with the choosing of a doctor? A. They may now; but at one time I guess it was the company who chose him. The doctor here now has been here a long time, and I guess now if he went they would choose their own doctor. If the men had anything against him they would choose another.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you pay anything towards the minister? A. I do.

Q. Is it voluntarily on your part? A. It is.

Q. It is kept out of your wages? A. No; I just give what I think proper to him.

Q. How often are you paid? A. Once a month.

Q. Are you furnished with a list of what you have received during the month? A. Yes.

Q. And in that list is the fee for the doctor? A. Yes.

Q. Do they keep anything for the minister? A. No.

Q. Do you pay taxes? A. Yes.

Q. You own some property do you? A. No.

Q. How much taxes do you pay? A. School \$1; roadwork \$1; poll tax 30 cents and some years 50 cents, and one year I paid \$3 for taxes altogether.

Q. Have you any objection to paying taxes? A. No; none.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Do you live in a company's house? A. I do.

Q. What rent do you pay? A. \$2.50 a month.

Q. Is it a convenient and comfortable house in every way? A. Well, so far as size is concerned the house is big enough, but it is a very cold house and it is not well finished; the doors and like that are very bad; it is very slightly finished.

Q. When they get out of repair the company attend to them? A. They send the carpenter to fix them.

Q. Is there a staff of carpenters employed to look after the repairs, &c.? A. Yes; but you have to let them know that you require them at the office.

Q. Are the houses well ventilated; are they fairly well as to their sanitary condition? A. Well, they are nothing extra, except you put in yourself. I mean the outhouses.

Q. Is there any inspection by the sanitary authorities, such as a board of health —do they go around? A. Not that I know of.

Q. Do you not think it a great inconvenience not to have outhouses attached to the dwellings? A. Well, it is, but the men put them up for themselves.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. About how much does it cost to supply yourselves with outhouses? A. It is according to how many you want; it is pretty hard to say what it cost.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Is your mine entered by a mine shaft or a slope? A. Shaft.

Q. Then it is to the company's interest to carry you up and down? A. There is a travelling road out, they take us down the shaft, but there is the travelling road

if anything goes wrong. We always go up and down the shaft and do not use the travelling road.

Q. Is there anything else you would like to inform the Commission upon? A. There is the lien law, I would like that to be taken into consideration, it would be a very good thing for the workmen.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Have you any idea as to the age at which boys should be employed? A. The law says twelve years old, so far as I understand.

Q. Do you think it could be amended to the advantage of the children? A. Well, I can't say, the parents of many of the children are careless and they like to get them to work as soon as they can and at 12 they send them to work.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What do you think of the recommendation of a former witness that the boys should be able to read and write before going to work? A. It is a very good one; indeed they should not go to work till they are able to read and write at least.

Q. Do you think the standard should be regulated by law? A. Yes; I do.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you think that many boys go to work who are not able to read or write? A. I have known them to go to work and I have heard boys say that they have learned to write in the pit and to read too.

Q. Is there anything else that you wish to add? A. I think that weekly or fortnightly pays would help to encourage the men very much and would lead to the introduction of the cash system which we know would be better than the book or credit system.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Do you think a man working on the monthly system is apt to buy things he would do without if he had weekly pays? A. I do not exactly know what he might do without, but he is more apt to go to extravagance with the credit system.

Q. It kind of makes him lean that way? A. Supposing a man starts in May he would not get any money till the middle of June according to the system of pay here, and there is two weeks back time kept—they might perhaps give him a couple of dollars but he would get into debt, and once you get into debt it is pretty hard to get out of it. Then there is the immigration of laborers out, I do not believe in it at all. I am not opposed to general immigration, but it is the importing out of working-men.

STELLARTON, 18th April, 1888.

Mr. H. S. POOLE, agent Acadia Coal Company, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your position Mr. Poole? A. I am agent of the Acadia Coal Company.

Q. How many mines does the company work? A. The company works four mines; the Acadia, MacGregor, the McBean and the Six-foot.

Q. How many men and boys are employed by the company? A. We employ somewhat over 900.

Q. How many of these would be underground and how many above ground; or how do you divide into classes the people who work below ground? A. We divide them into day men and contract men.

Q. The day hands work how many hours a day? A. The hours vary. Some men work 9 hours at their work, and have to go up and down on their own time. Others have to put in ten hours work, and a few have to work longer. The machinists running the pumps may have to work 12 hours.



Q. At what work are the day hands employed? A. At taking coal from the miners and putting along the levels, at timbering the main roads and other work.

Q. What wages do men working at timbering receive? A. On an average they get \$1.30 a day.

Q. Those carrying coal, what wages do they receive? A. The drivers get from 60 to 80 cents a day.

Q. What are the ages of the drivers? A. Their ages are from 16 to 19 years.

Q. Do you pay none of these less than 60 cents a day? A. I think not.

Q. About what would be the highest amount paid the drivers? A. Some of them get as high as \$1 a day.

Q. You think 60 and 80 cents would be the average? A. Yes.

Q. The contract men of whom you spoke, are they all coal cutters? A. Yes.

Q. What does their contract include? A. To cut coal at so much a yard or so much a ton, and in some cases to keep the places where they work protected by timbering. In some cases they are paid extra for the timber they put up.

Q. Do those men employ any others? A. No; not with us.

Q. How many cutters will employ one shoveller? A. Two.

Q. What wages are received by the shovellers? A. \$1.20.

Q. Do you know any that receive more? A. Yes; a few get \$1.30, but \$1.20 is the rule.

Q. Are you in a position to know accurately what they receive? A. No; we only put in what we receive against them. The cutters keep a memorandum of their shifts, and the number of shifts, at so much per shift, to be given the men who act as shovellers.

Q. How many hours do they work as a rule, the shovellers? A. They are supposed to work until the pit is done.

Q. You don't know how many hours that would average? A. No; that depends on the amount of coal going away from the pit; sometimes they have worked 10 hours, but the average would be less.

Q. If they work only three or four hours, do they still receive the \$1.20? A. I cannot tell, because it depends on the cutters themselves getting in their time.

Q. Are your mines overcrowded, or is there work for all, that is at the present time? A. I should not say at the present moment that they are either one way or the other. There are about enough men to keep them going. You have to consider the seasons of the year and the facilities for shipment, before you can say whether men are crowded or if there is any want of men, because we may be influenced or affected by snowstorms, or by lack of cars which may prevent us from doing business. This winter we have not suffered from snowstorms, but we have suffered in another way. The Intercolonial Railway having made contracts to carry English goods, we are not able to get all the power required to forward coal cars and return the empties. Owing to this the result of our operations was to a considerable extent controlled by the facilities the railway gave us.

Q. Have you during the winter wholly shut down the mines or worked short time? A. We have worked short hours. Some men in one pit we laid off.

Q. In the summer season when you can get all the transportation you need, do you work the men more thickly than they should be worked to get in their work to the best advantage? A. I should say not. I won't say that it is not done, but what would be crowding the pit in one place would not crowd another pit. If you are working pillars you do not require to give each man the same length of face that you would do if they were working in boards.

Q. Do you find it impossible to get away the coal as rapidly as the miners bring it down, so much so as to impede the work? A. Well, the pits vary. The condition of the pit at this season may enable us to get coal away freely, while some sections stopping work may crowd us at another period. I can hardly give any general reply to that question.

Q. About what are the earnings per day of an average cutter when he gets in an average day's work? A. These are our figures for last month: \$1.50, \$1.56 and

\$1.80 and three quarters. Those are actual averages without deducting loader, powder and fines for any damage they may do.

Q. In striking that average would the days counted be full days? A. In some cases they would not.

Q. Can you form an estimate of the number of partial days worked on an average? A. It is not easy, for this reason: Suppose the pit has the ability to make an output of 500 tons in ten hours, and only works seven and a half hours, if we have 75 per cent. of the total number of cutters to put out 500 tons they might work a full day and then it would only work three-quarters of a day.

Q. When these imperfect days work are made has it been due to difficulty in getting away the coal, or have the miners quit work of their own motion? A. In some cases in summer we suffer from the men working short time, but that difficulty does not exist in the winter season. In the winter season we are affected sometimes by want of cars, and by snowstorms, and by the difficulties of knowing when cars will come. If the cars do not come we may have to knock off work.

Q. What I want to know is how frequently the men go into the pit in the morning and are unable to do a full day's work because of the impossibility of getting the coal away from their work? A. I cannot give that with accuracy. Our busiest season is in summer and that is the season when the men like to work short hours.

Q. Can you give a fairly correct idea of the average yearly earnings of the coal cutters? A. I might say in connection with the previous question that last month 78 men took in 1,570 shifts. That month would have given 1,716 shifts, but I am not prepared to say whether the men could have worked the other 150 days or not. They may have been sick—but that is the nearest I can get to it.

Q. Can you now give a fairly correct idea of the average yearly earnings of the coal cutters? A. I can only give you the average in a few cases that I have—9 men made \$704 in twelve months.

Q. That would be the calendar year? A. Yes.

Q. It would not be twelve selected months? A. No.

Q. Would that be working full time? A. I don't remember. I only remember the figures. Of course that is nothing like the average.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Each day you call a shift? A. The men put in shifts whether it is two hours or ten hours. Sometimes the men agree to let one of their number off, and they do his work, so that shifts are put in which are not worked—how many I cannot say.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Would it be possible to find how many shifts were put in by the coal cutters and what the total pay for the year was? A. Yes.

Q. If you divide the pay by the work you then get the average? A. I remember that the average men make is something over \$400, but seasons differ. There may be a good demand in winter or there may be a slack demand. There may be facilities this winter that did not exist last winter, and it is in the winter season that the irregularities come in.

Q. Could \$400 be the average year's earnings of the coal cutters? A. I could not say that, because I have never made up the average.

Q. If a witness testified that he thought \$300 would represent it, would it be your opinion that he was far from the truth? A. It depends on the individual. Men working under similar circumstances have earned from 91 cents to \$1.70 a shift. In another pit men, working under exactly similar circumstances, have made from 56 cents to \$1.83.

Q. And the difference was wholly due to the capacity of the men? A. Yes; to the capacity or the willingness.

Q. Then I understand you are not able to give the average? A. I could do so by referring to the books and carrying the individual through the year.



Q Then you are not able without great labor to find the total labor and pay in a year? A. I think I could get gross shifts.

Q. Would it be a great deal of trouble to do that? A. I think not. Of course last year there were five months of idleness, so the average last year would be higher than that of other years. In 7 months some made \$300 and others \$400.

Q. But you think that would not be a fair representation of the case? A. I cannot see how that would be.

Q. The company owns a number of houses at each of the mines I believe? A. Yes.

Q. What rates of rent do the men pay for these houses? A. From \$1.50 to \$2.50.

Q. How many rooms as a rule are there in a tenement which rents for \$1.50? A. I cannot tell.

Q. Can you tell what number of rooms there are in the others? A. No.

Q. Can you tell the cost of the company of those houses? A. They cost all the way up to \$650.

Q. You have houses which cost \$650 which rent for \$2.50 a month? A. Yes.

Q. You don't know how many rooms there are in them? A. No; I can't say. There are four rooms and a kitchen or something of that kind.

Q. The average cost of these houses would not be as much as \$650? A. Some of them are 60 years old and I don't know what they cost.

Q. Does the company keep them in good repair? A. That is for the men to say. Last year I spent more money on them than we have done for many years.

Q. Do you provide them with necessary outhouses? A. Not in all cases.

Q. Do the occupants of the houses change frequently? A. Yes; in some cases.

Q. If a man makes improvements and leaves would he get any allowance for the improvements? A. They have been allowed to remove them in some cases and in others not.

Q. There is no cast iron rule about it? A. My connection with the company is so recent that I cannot speak positively.

Q. Does the company sell any of the men groceries or provisions of any kind? A. No.

Q. They keep no store at any of the mines? A. No.

Q. Does the company in any way exercise a control over the manner in which the men spend their money or influence them in purchasing at any particular store? A. No.

Q. It has nothing to do with the wages of the men after they are once paid? A. No; unless the wages are garnisheed.

Q. Have there been any cases of garnishee? A. There have been a few, and I may say that it hardly seems to me to be fair that men who have been unfortunate enough to get into debt should, after the lapse of perhaps five or six years, find the wages that they are then making garnisheed. It seems to me that it would be but fair that the wages garnisheed should be limited to those due at the date of the judgment. The judgment may be five years old, and yet a garnishee may come in at the present time. A man doing business who gets into debt and is sued may swear out and the judgment affects him at that time, but the garnishee process affects wages due to-day for a debt of five years ago.

Q. Are the wages of the men frequently garnisheed? A. No.

Q. What is the limit below which they cannot be garnisheed? A. I don't know.

Q. Do you know whether they can be seized below \$20? A. I am not positive. If it is true that the wages below \$20 cannot be garnisheed, would it not be to the advantage of the men to be paid more frequently than once a month? A. I don't think the practice has pointed that way.

Q. Would it not be better that \$20 should not be due at any one time? A. The men who get into debt are generally those who want advances—the men who do not go into debt rarely want advances.

Q. Do the men get advances when they ask for it? A. No; I would not say that, but a few families are always asking for advances.



Q. You are willing, if you think the men are steady and need money, to give them advances? A. Yes; whenever they ask for it.

Q. Do you know the cost to a man of a garnishee order? A. I think it is \$10.

Q. Is it the case that a man might have \$8 or \$9 due him and have the whole seized to pay the expenses? A. Yes; if I am not mistaken, there was a debt of \$30 on which \$20 was paid and the balance was garnisheed for—in consequence of this the debt of \$10 became a debt of \$20. Sometimes a man has said that he had settled the account, but, as he could not produce his receipt, he has been mulcted for it.

Q. Is judgment obtained in the ordinary way against a man before his wages are garnisheed? A. I presume so.

Q. How long is it since the last difficulty or dispute took place between the management and the men regarding wages? A. It was in last May—that is, a dispute in which a body of men were concerned. There are often little disputes.

Q. That was the last that took the nature of a strike? A. Yes.

Q. What was the cause of that difficulty? A. It was complex. First, there was an order that the wages of one pit should be reduced—the men objected to that, and the men at the other pits refused to work if the order was enforced.

Q. Were the men locked out or did they quit work? A. They quit work.

Q. Were any efforts made on either side looking towards an arbitration? A. The men made a proposition which they subsequently withdrew; then they asked whether the company were open to arbitration as they proposed it and the company declined.

Q. What was the first offer made by the men? A. It was vague. It was arbitration generally.

Q. Did the company signify their willingness to arbitrate at first? A. They did on certain conditions, but I cannot recall the terms.

Q. Did the company take the position that they would arbitrate to see how much the reduction of pay should be, but that they were unwilling under any circumstances to restore the old rate? A. No; it was limited to a reduction, but it did not specify the extent.

Q. The management were willing to arbitrate to find out what the amount of the reduction would be? A. Yes.

Q. And the men declined that? A. They first accepted, if I remember aright, but when it came to details they withdrew their acceptance.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Was there not an understanding that if the wages were fixed, they should remain at that figure? A. There was nothing of that nature that I remember.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. At all events there was no arbitration. When the men returned to work did the company come to the men's terms or was there a compromise? A. There was a compromise.

Q. Was there any reduction of wages? A. Yes.

Q. Were any of the men who took part in the strike proscribed by the company or refused work? A. No; I know of none. There were men who worked before who did not get work afterwards, but it was because there was no work for them.

Q. Was work refused to any of the men because they had taken part in the proceedings? A. No. Some men were refused the sort of work they wanted.

Q. Were the men for whom you had no work those who were prominent in the labor movement? A. There may have been one or two, but some of them were inefficient.

Q. Are there any of the men who have made themselves obnoxious in consequence of the part they have taken in the labor movements? A. As far as possible we place all men on the same footing. One cannot help knowing the men who come to us as committee men to represent the views of their fellows, but I am free to

say that the majority of the men who have come to us as deputies have won my respect from the manner in which they have spoken. As a rule, the leaders in these matters are men that I have a considerable amount of respect for.

Q. And you have not placed them under a ban or made them marked men in consequence of the part they have taken? A. No. On the contrary, my feelings towards some of them have been improved by the way in which they have presented their case. I would not say that of all of them.

Q. Have any of the miners built houses for themselves? A. Some of them have done so.

Q. Can you form an estimate of the number who have done so? A. No.

Q. Have those who have not built houses for themselves invested money in any other way? A. I have heard that several men have put money in the savings bank or have made other investments, but I am unable to say to what extent.

Q. Have you any positive knowledge or is it merely hearsay? A. I think the information I have was sufficiently correct.

Q. Is it your opinion that the cost of living at Stellarton is higher than at Halifax. Meat is cheaper, and many of them have facilities for doing a little gardening.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Are there gardens attached to the houses? A. Many of them have gardens.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What do you charge men for coal delivered? A. We charge them \$1.60. There are some who pay more who are outside the limits.

Q. What do you charge persons not in the employ of the company? A. It costs them \$2.50 at the shaft.

Q. You give your own men a considerable advantage? A. Yes; they get about half.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. You say in reference to what the coal cutters receive that so much is deducted for fines. How are the fines inflicted? A. They are inflicted where the men are paid by the ton for sending up coal and stone is sent up instead of coal.

Q. How do you inflict the fines? A. The men are fined so much a box. I think it is 17 cents a box; from 17 to 20.

Q. What is the usual number of tons a man gets out in a day? A. It varies. It would be about five tons according to the financial returns, but I don't think it is as much as that.

Q. Have you ever known a man fined for three or four tons during one day? A. I could not say.

Q. Do the fines go into the revenue of the company? A. Yes; they go against the cost of cutting.

Q. What is the usual price per ton for cutting? A. It varies according to different classes of work. It varies from 38½ cents per cubic yard to 70 cents per cubic yard. That seems to be the highest.

Q. How many tons are there in a cubic yard? A. That depend on the specific gravity of the coal. Roughly speaking they rarely agree; a ton to a cubic yard.

Q. You said you know of some men who accumulated money, and put it in the savings bank; do you know of any man with a family who have any means; would such persons save money? A. I am under the impression that a man who has a large family of boys, when they are large enough to act as drivers and leaders, is the men who makes the money as a rule.

Q. Are the men generally satisfied? A. I think it is a man's nature to always want to get more than what he has.

Q. Generally speaking, how do you find them? A. I think they are generally satisfied.

Q. Are they sober? A. The bulk of them are.

Q. Do you have schools in connection with the mines? A. There are public schools.

Q. Does each miner have to pay toward their maintenance? A. I think they pay a dollar a head.

Q. Don't you think it would be advisable to pay your men oftener than once a month? A. We have not found it so.

Q. Do you know persons capable of running from month to month without getting into debt or do you accept orders? A. No; we do not accept orders.

Q. Every man gets his money? A. Yes; that is as a rule. If the men do not come for it themselves they send their wives or their children.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What lamps do you use in the mine? A. The Stephenson, Clanny and Museler.

Q. Which of them do you prefer? A. I prefer the Museler.

Q. Does it give as much light as the Clanny lamp? A. Yes.

Q. How does it compare with the Clanny as far as safety is concerned? A. The tests make it out safer. The Clanny lamp has been improved by a shield outside, or gauze inside.

Q. The second gauze makes it safer; is that where there is a current? A. Where there is a current.

Q. The earnings of the men depend to a large extent upon the light they can throw upon their work, I suppose? A. Some men complain that they cannot see so well with the Clanny lamps, but I cannot see that the use of safety lamps reduces the output.

Q. Do they complain that they have not enough light? A. Yes, but they often work when the lamps want cleaning.

Q. What facilities are there for cleaning the lamps? A. There are stations for that purpose in the pit.

Q. If a man sends his lamp to be cleaned must he wait for it? A. Yes.

Q. Does the shoveller have a lamp too? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think it possible to introduce the incandescence light into the mines? A. Some lamps have been introduced in South Wales of that description. I believe they weigh 7 pounds each. I have a standing order in England with a lamp maker of repute to send a sample as soon as he is satisfied that they are practicable.

Q. Would it not be possible to run wires from the mouth of the pit to the extreme end of the furthest galleries? A. I think not.

Q. What would be the distance? A. It would not only be the distance, but the liability to disarrangement.

Q. Do you know whether any attempts have been made to light coal mines by electricity? A. I think a colliery in South Wales is lit by Swan's lamps.

Q. Do you know the results? A. No.

Q. Would it not cost the company less to use electricity than to supply lamps? A. Not with our knowledge to-day.

Q. How many safety lamps have you in use? A. I cannot say.

Q. What would be the cost of them? A. They cost \$3.50; I cannot say what they would cost to-day.

Q. How many lives have been lost in the pits you have charge of since you have had charge? A. I could not say.

Q. Have there been many? A. It would be under ten.

Q. What are the means employed by the company to secure thorough ventilation of the workings and to keep them free from gas? A. There are mechanical fans of considerable power, capable of circulating 60,000 cubic feet of air per minute.

Q. Have you ventilating shafts in addition to the ordinary shafts? A. In some cases they are independent.

Q. How long is it since you had a serious explosion of gas? A. There was an explosion of gas in the third seam last January. That was in consequence of a fire.



Q. No men were there at the time? A. No.

Q. Have no explosions taken place of late at points where men were working?  
A. I don't remember of any. There has not been anything serious.

Q. Is there any fund from which men can get relief in case of sickness or accident? A. There is no general fund.

Q. Would the company be willing to subscribe to a general fund? A. I believe they would.

Q. Have they ever been asked to do so? A. Not in any tangible form.

Q. Do you think it would be for the benefit of the men if a fund were created to which they and the company would contribute for such purposes? A. I think so.

Q. Do you think it would be for the benefit of the company? A. I cannot say.

Q. Would you favor a system of arbitration for the settlement of labor troubles?  
A. I approve of arbitration, broadly speaking.

Q. Should it take the form of one arbitrator appointed by the company, one by the men, and these two to nominate a third, or would you prefer Government nominees? A. I would not like to commit myself to such an opinion—I would like to see them appointed first.

Q. Would you consider it possible for men of standing and ability, such as, say, superior court judges, to enquire into labor troubles and to come to a settlement of them? A. I think a legal education, coupled with common sense, and some knowledge of mining business would be the only means of arriving at such a settlement.

Q. You think some technical knowledge would be necessary? A. I think it would.

Q. And without technical knowledge you think an understanding of the case could not be had? A. I fear not. Much depends on the man, of course.

Q. Can you give us an idea whether the men are now earning as much or more or less than in former years? A. They are earning both more and less.

Q. Will you explain how? A. In 1878 there was a boom in coal and prices went up to \$2 or \$3 a ton at the mines, and wages went up also. After that there were labor troubles and there were reductions in the rates of wages paid both here and in England. Previous to that I think the wages were lower.

Q. You think the wages now earned are lower than they were previous to 1873 at these mines? A. I cannot say. I can give you the figure for the years 1840 and 1850.

Q. Do so? A. The cutting wages in 1843 were five shillings and eight pence half penny. In 1853 they were seven shillings.

Q. That was for the days' labor? A. Yes; that was for the cutting. In 1840 it was six shillings and six pence. The pit men were paid, in 1850, four shillings. The boys one shilling and three pence. The bank men four shillings. Shift work four shillings and six pence. That is timbering and propping. The price of coal at that time was sixteen shillings and six pence a chaldron.

Q. What is a chaldron? A. A chaldron to buy is 2,800 pounds.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Is the sale of liquor by the glass permitted here? A. I could not say.

Q. Is it practised to any extent? A. I believe it can be had by the flask.

Q. Are the men as a rule pretty sober and steady? A. I think they are. After a pay day some of the young fellows are apt to take too much. Unfortunately, I think, there are too many places where they can get it, although the Scott Act is in this county.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Among the 900 hands employed how many would be boys? A. I suppose 100 would be under 18 years of age. The mine report mentions it.

Q. Are any steps taken to ascertain if they can read and write? A. No; we take none under 12 years of age, but we never ask as to their education.

Q. In the event of an accident happening to a man would the company pay him until he got better? A. There is no rule to that effect.

Q. Has there been much importation of foreign labor into the mines? A. In 1873 a number of Frenchmen came here and last year about 40 Belgians came to the Vale Colliery.

Q. Were they brought here because they were a superior class of men? A. No; they came here of their own accord.

Q. Were they superior to our own men? A. Not as far as my experience goes. I would sooner have our own men.

Q. What would be the total of the monthly pay roll? A. At this season when work is slack it would be about \$24,000 or \$25,000.

Q. Would you have any objection to state the amount of rent collected from the miners per month? A. I have no idea. It seldom exceeds the expenses put on the buildings. What the result is at the end of the year I never had the curiosity to see.

Q. How many houses are owned by the company? A. I don't know. There would be, I suppose, 350 tenements.

Q. Could a miner if he wished buy one of those houses? A. No; not one of those that are in rows. The company would not care to sell those and I do not think a miner would care to buy one of them.

Q. If a man was discharged for any cause would he have to wait until the end of the month for his money? A. He would probably be paid immediately.

Q. Is that the rule? A. It is so seldom that men are discharged that I cannot say.

Q. Suppose a man leaves on his own account? A. The understanding is that there must be a fortnight's notice, but generally that is waived, if a man has a reasonable excuse.

Q. What would the value of the houses built by the men that you have referred to? A. They would be worth between \$400 and \$500.

Q. A man building that kind of a house would he have a first-class job in the mine? A. At Westville some of the men have their own houses or houses that they have rented. I know one man who has built a house who has a dollar a day. Where he got his money I cannot say.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. The company you told us had no part in bringing out these Belgians? A. They had not.

Q. When they came did you displace any hands? A. No.

Q. Have you heard of others coming this year? A. I have.

Q. Was any application made to you to give them employment? A. Yes.

Q. Were you able to give them employment? A. I do not know whether they will come or not.

Q. Do you need hands now? A. Not at the present moment.

Q. Had you anything to do with the bringing out of these Belgians who are coming the present year? A. I think only two came and that they came in consequence of representations of their friends and contrary to notices we have given against bringing out their friends.

Q. Have any miners been brought here under contract from foreign countries? A. Some special men have come to fill special positions, but there has been no body of men.

Q. There was no contract in the case of the Belgians? A. No.

Q. Are there any of them here now? A. There are about 40 of them at the Vale Colliery.

Q. Are the French miners here still? A. A few of them are.

MEMORANDUM of entries' fines and wages during March, 1888. Employés of Acadia Coal Company (Limited). Referred to in the evidence of Mr. Poole.

Number of Cutters.	Days on which Pit worked.	Days of 10 hours actually worked by Pit.	Shifts returned by Cutters (Note A).	Earning less loaders, powder, fines, &c.	Average wage per shifts returned by Men.	Assumed total possibly shifts of 10 hours.
				\$ cts.	\$ cts.	
69	26	16 $\frac{3}{4}$	1,464	2,644 49	1 80 $\frac{3}{4}$	1,156
78	26	22	1,570	2,378 56	1 51 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,716
165	25	22	3,337	5,210 55	1 56	3,630

Extreme rates of wages by men working under similar circumstances:—

In one pit.....	per shift \$0.91 and \$1 70
In another.....	do 0.56 do 2 83
do do .....	do 0.81 do 1 81

Individual earnings in some cases per shift \$3.00.

NOTE A.—This number includes short shifts of two hours and upwards, and also shifts allowed to comrades though not worked.

Laborers (surface), earn average per month.

Mechanics do do do

MEMORANDUM furnished by Mr. Poole, showing amounts earned by three sets of cutters for seven months ending 31st December, 1887:—

*Acadia Collieries.*

A. 93 cutters, net earnings for seven months.....	\$27,496 99
Equal per cutter.....	278 66
do do month.....	39 79
B. 72 cutters, net earnings for seven months.....	20,051 15
Equal per cutter.....	278 48
do do month.....	39 79
C. 82 cutters, net earnings for seven months. ....	20,445 87
Equal per cutter .....	249 34
do do month.....	35 62

The above are net earnings after cost of powder, tools, fines &c., are deducted

The above are the average receipts by coal cutters for the seven months of 1887 worked after the strike of that year had ended, and when the reduced wages were paid.

Fines averaged 0.18 per centum and were imposed for stone sent out with coal:

The numbers of men employed will not agree with the previous statement, for, as far as possible, the men who worked but a part of the period were not included.

W. S. MUNSIE, miner, sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a miner at present.

Q. How long have you worked at mining? A. For probably 8 or 9 years.

Q. Did you ever work in any other mine at other places? A. Not cutting. I have worked elsewhere at loading and shaft work.

Q. Do you work at piece work? A. I am at box and pillar work. I have worked almost all kinds.

Q. What is your average weekly pay? A. Last year, during the year, all I earned was \$351.89, and I worked as steady as I could get work.

Q. How many days did you work? A. I do not remember.



By Mr. FREED :—

Q. You were idle part of the year in consequence of the strike? A. Yes.

Q. Then you had work for seven months? A. For about nine months, I think.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. Have you a family? A. Yes.

Q. Do you pay taxes? A. Yes.

Q. How much do you pay? A. I pay about \$9 in all for school, poor and county rates. It runs from \$7.90 to \$9.80.

Q. Have you a property of your own? A. Yes.

Q. Did you build it yourself? A. I did partly.

Q. Did you make the money out of your work in the mines? A. No; I made it before I went into the mines.

Q. You have not saved any money since? A. No.

Q. What you make in the mines just about keeps you? A. It does not keep me. If I had not other means I could not keep a family of seven on my wages; and I am as steady a man as works.

Q. You pay, I suppose, towards sustaining a doctor. A. Yes.

Q. How much does that cost you? A. It costs 42 cents a month.

Q. Have you any choice as to who shall be the doctor? A. Yes; we can take any doctor we like.

Q. Do you pay anything towards a minister? A. Yes.

Q. Do you subscribe that voluntarily? A. Yes.

Q. You have given orders, I suppose, on the company for goods? A. Never.

Q. Do you know of any such cases? A. I have known of orders been given, but I could not tell the amount.

Q. You do not know of the expenses of a garnishee order? A. No.

Q. Do you know of any man who has had a garnishee put on him? A. I could not say. One man, I think, has had his wages garnisheed.

Q. You get paid your wages once a month? A. Yes.

Q. Would it not be more beneficial to you if you were paid oftener? A. It certainly would.

Q. Have the men ever made a representation to the management to that effect? A. We have. At one time we had fortnightly pay. After it was stopped we saw Mr. Poole on two occasions and he said that any one who wanted it could make application. He refused to allow it, his reason being that it would cost the expenses of another clerk. The men, of course, were not in a position to claim it, and they had to put up with it. The men could live for from \$5 to \$8 a month less for cash if they had it than they can on credit.

Q. Do you think there is a tendency under the credit system for men to buy things that they do not want? A. No; but when you have cash the merchant will take what you give him, whereas if you get the goods on credit they go into the books at his own figure.

Q. Is there a society among the miners? A. There is.

Q. What do you call it? A. It is the Provincial Workmen's Association.

Q. Are there any benefits from it? A. No; not now. We used to pay benefits; but the men could not keep up the payments and we had to do away with them. Now, a man in poor circumstances is supported by a collection taken up by the men.

Q. You have been in strikes? A. Yes.

Q. Do you favor arbitration as a mode of settlement? A. Yes.

Q. In what way? A. It would be more satisfactory to man and master. Neither party gains by strikes.

Q. Don't you think the men should have the power of appointing one arbitrator and the company the second and the Government the third? Suppose the third should be the County Court Judge of the district; would not a court of that kind be more beneficial than it would be if the employes appointed one and the company

the second and the two so appointed chose the third, or how do you think it should be done? A. I think that if the Government appointed them all it would be satisfactory to me; that is if they were intelligent honest men. I as one of the miners would be satisfied to leave my interests in their hands. They would need delegates to give them information, but the persons appointed by the Government could decide.

Q. Do you get work continually usually, so that you can do a full day's work?

A. No; we do not get too steady work.

Q. How is that; have you too many hands? A. Sometimes we are overcrowded and sometimes the trade does not demand it.

Q. What number of hours does a coal cutter work? A. Seven or eight hours. A man cannot work at cutting more than eight hours.

Q. You think that is as many hours as he possibly can work? A. Yes.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Speaking of fortnightly payments, what is the opinion of the men at large?

A. They would prefer fortnightly or weekly payments.

Q. Are there any benefits attached to the association? A. Not now.

Q. None whatever? A. No.

Q. Are there no sick benefits? A. No.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Would the amount you speak of as having earned be a fair average of the other men? A. I think it would be a pretty fair average. That is in the Acadia mine. That is clear of all taxes.

Q. It would be a fair average for the men working with you in the same pit? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How do you get down your mine, by a shaft or by a slope? A. By a slope.

Q. Are the tools sent down? A. Yes; the tools are made very handy for the Acadia miner.

Q. Is there anything you have any objection to, or any information you can give the Commission as to anything that would add to the safety of the mine? A. The mine I am in is well managed as far as safety is concerned. There are not many accidents in it. For other mines I cannot say.

Q. Is there any information you can give the Commission that would be beneficial to the miners? A. It is my opinion that the miners are ground down a little too fine at present. They are a class of people that work hard and they are not able to make a living for their families unless it is a man that has a number of boys.

Q. You do not find that many of the miners get rich? A. Only one out of thirty, and they do not get rich, but only comfortable.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Would the price for coal received by the companies at the mines enable them to increase the wages? A. I think it would.

Q. You think that their profits are excessive? A. Yes; our pay is less than it was four years ago, and coal is not lower now than it was then. Coal sells higher to-day than it did four to six or seven years ago, and our wages are lower.

Q. Is your society of any benefit to you in the way of keeping wages up? A. It would be if the men would be true to the association. I believe they would get along better with the companies if they were united in a body and had their grievances settled by the wisest heads among them.

Q. Are the men generally not members of the society? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Is there any objection to other miners coming in? A. The association objects to it, but it cannot prevent it.



Q. If a man came in who did not belong to the association but would be willing to join, would there be any objection to his joining? A. No; none whatever.

Q. What do you think would be the age of the youngest boy that works in the mine now? A. I cannot say the age; I think he would be about 12 years old.

Q. Do you know any that do not know how to read and write? A. I don't know how far they are advanced.

ROBERT DRUMMOND, Secretary Provincial Workmen's Association, sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am Grand Secretary of the Provincial Workmen's Association.

Q. Then you are one of the workmen in the mines? A. No; not now.

Q. What are you now? A. I am manager of a paper.

Q. Do you get any remuneration for being secretary of the association? A. Yes.

Q. Have you worked here? A. I have worked for some time in the Drummond mine, and I have also worked in Cape Breton.

Q. Will you give the Commission any general information that you are possessed of? A. In reference to fortnightly payments I had evidence to the effect that the men were not generally in favor of it. Some of the men are not in favor of it, but we never had it here. The men tried to get fortnightly payments, but they never got them. Previous to 1881 the men got payment on the 15th of the month for the previous month. Then we had an agitation for fortnightly payments. In Springhill we got them, and on the 28th of the month the men were paid for the first 14 days, but in Pictou the men accepted a sub-pay on the 5th of the month and full pay on the 20th, which was very little good to them. We were in favor of that system then, because it would be the thin edge of the wedge for fortnightly pay, and we intend to have that yet, even if we have to go to the legislature for it. Another point, I think, the Commission should know is this. The loader's pay was mentioned as being \$1.20, but in the mine that witness represented they refused to take \$1.30 from the cutters for loaders, the reason being that the more the cutters give the loaders the less the pay for the cutters average, and the management, of course, wish to show the best average. If the loaders were paid \$1.30 it would make the wages of the cutters so much less.

Q. Are you in favor of arbitration? A. Yes; we have fought the managers on arbitration, and had a Bill passed last week through the legislature with that object in view. It provides for the appointment of two arbitrators by the workmen and one by the managers, and these three to select a fourth, three of the four will constitute a quorum, and the arbitration is to be compulsory. There can be no arbitration unless it is compulsory. The managers, except Mr. Poole, employed counsel to fight against the passage of the Bill, but there was a clause in it providing that if they did not comply with the award of the arbitrators they would be liable to forfeit their leases. We were willing to eliminate that clause, and it was done this year. They are now liable for 14 days' pay of all the men employed. If the men refuse to abide by the decision they lose 14 days' pay off the time they work, which will be retained by the company. Mr. Poole withdrew his objection to the Bill after that clause in reference to the forfeiture of the leases was struck out. In reference to the last strike the men made a proposition to arbitrate, and no objection was made to the principle, but the management would not arbitrate unless a reduction was made from the maximum rate then paid. They said in effect, you must first name a lower figure, and we will then arbitrate how much lower than the figure named the rate shall be. When they saw that the men were in earnest in their desire to arbitrate they then threw obstacles in their way. I think also, with regard to the average pay, that you can ascertain that without reference to the books. We have a sworn statement in the Dominion Franchise for last year, which



was an average year, and you will see from the returns how many men made three hundred dollars. There were only three or four in Cape Breton. Here we were a little better off, but in Cape Breton, not a majority of them, not a tenth of them were eligible. This statement is proof positive, because it was sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Has the accuracy of the returns ever been questioned? A. No; they came out of the offices certified by the office clerks.

Q. Have you ever known the foremen to beat the boys? A. Not since the formation of the union, but previous to that a man did not know when he went into the pit whether he would be discharged before night or not. I have heard the bosses swear at the men, but they do not use them that way now.

Q. You think there has been an improvement within the past ten years? A. Decidedly.

Q. Have the miners, as a class, improved within that time? A. There is no doubt of it. Bring a thousand miners together and a thousand men of no other trade will beat them as far as sobriety and good behavior are concerned. We have had as many as 2,000 men together at pic-nics and not a single one of them drunk.

Q. Is there any information that you can give that would be beneficial to the men? A. I think no one should be admitted to work in the mines under the age of 12 years. No boy or girl should be permitted to work unless the companies have a certificate from a doctor that they are fit.

Q. What about their education? A. They should be able to read and write; the more intelligent they are the less liable they are to destroy themselves and others. A careless miner leads to accidents where other lives than his own are endangered. With regard to the apprentice system, I believe that Trades Unions are opposed to them, but I believe they make a grand mistake. I think such a system would be the best thing that could be introduced. I don't see the object of excluding the children of natives while allowing others to come in and take the trade. I think our own children should be apprenticed, and it would exclude people from other places.

Q. How long does it take a boy to learn mining? A. It takes three or four years if he has the bodily strength. One of the anomalies is that they will not give cutting to a man who has been years in the mine.

Q. What is the reason of that? A. A young man of 21 from the country could not take a boy's place in the mine, while he could butcher coal. He could not take the work the boys are trained to, but he can take a position where there is better pay. In regard to Industrial Schools, the Commission might make a recommendation so that we could get technical education. We think some training for imparting technical education should be compulsory on all teachers. In a farming locality the children should be taught about the soil, and in a mining country they should be taught something about what they are to earn their living from.

Q. Has the association been the means of raising the status of the miners? A. Yes.

Q. How many members are there? A. The nominal membership is 3,000. The good standing membership is not so large.

Q. Does that include Cape Breton? A. Yes; we have 14 lodges under one Grand Council.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Are the great majority of men in good standing? A. No; in Cape Breton they are idle from December until May, except a little banking, and men who are not earning anything cannot contribute enough to keep themselves in good standing. Here we have had explosions that have had the same effect.

Q. Is it owing to Cape Breton being blocked with ice that the men are idle so long? A. Partly that and partly for want of railways. It is also partly due to the new system. They can put in enough men there in the summer to supply the trade all the year.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How many lives have been lost here within the last five or seven years? A. I suppose 90.

Q. Were any of the persons who were in the mine here, at the time of the last explosion, got out? A. Two, I think.

Q. Out of how many? A. Forty-six.

Q. Were they living when they were got out? A. No; they were dead. They were killed by the gas.

Q. Did any of the men who were in the mine escape? A. Yes; a great many got out by the cage pit.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Is there any known cause for the accident? A. It has never been ascertained.

Q. Was there any investigation as to the cause? A. Only the coroner's inquest.

Q. Who goes on the jury in such cases? A. We have a provision that three competent miners must go on. The men have also power to appoint a person to examine the witnesses. The Local Government have an interest in the mines here and most of the matters affecting us are considered.

Q. Does the Government charge so much for leases? A. No; they charge a royalty.

Q. What is it? A.  $7\frac{1}{2}$  cents a ton.

Q. What revenue did the Government receive last year from the coal mines? A. \$120,000 and it will go up. There is a suggestion that the Dominion Government should give the Province a fixed sum in lieu of royalty as they did in New Brunswick in reference to the stumpage, but if I were a member of the Local Government I would not let the royalties go for \$200,000, for there is a great future here.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. How many accidents resulting in death or permanent injury occurred last year in the Province? A. We had none as far as I am aware in Stellarton. I don't know of any at the Acadia. I could not say from memory.

ARCHIBALD McLELLAN, miner, sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. You heard the evidence of Mr. Munsie? A. Yes.

Q. Do you concur in it in every particular? A. Yes.

Q. Is there anything he did not say that you can and that you think would be of benefit? A. In regard to letting out contracts they put out tenders and it tends to bring in people from outside and to overcrowd the men. If there is a piece of work to be done such as driving a slope they put it up to tender.

Q. How so? A. It is done at so much a ton or a cubic yard. The tenders are sent over the country and the people come in and tender lower than the people here.

Q. Have you had much of that? A. Yes; considerable.

Q. Could not the association prevent it? A. We do not want to interfere too much with the management of the mine.

Q. Has anything of that kind been done within the year? A. It was done about a year ago.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. You have heard the testimony of Mr. Drummond, do you approve of that? A. I approve of that.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Is that all you have to say? A. That is pretty much all.

EDWARD WILKINSON, miner, sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. You have heard the evidence of the previous witnesses? A. Yes.

Q. Do you concur in it? A. Yes.

Q. Is there anything you can add in addition to what they have said. A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Have you worked in coal mines in England? A. Yes.

Q. Were you paid by the day or by the ton? A. I was a boy of 10 when I was sent in, and I worked until I was 28 or 29.

Q. What wages did you receive at first? A. I got 16d. a day.

Q. What were you doing then? A. I was driving.

Q. After you got through driving what work were you at? A. Hauling coal from the men.

Q. What did you receive per day then? A. I got a half penny a box.

Q. How do the wages compare with the wages here? A. When I was 14 I would make as much as any boy here.

Q. Did you cut coal there? A. Yes.

Q. How much did you receive? A. We were paid by the score. We were paid different prices.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Did you make more or less than you do here? A. I was paid as much if not more in England than I get here.

Q. When was that? A. It was in 1871, 1872 and 1873.

Q. What was a fair day's earnings there? A. Five shillings.

Q. What would be a fair day's earnings here? A. Two dollars.

Q. Have you earned that here? A. I have not cut coal for a long while.

Q. Would five shillings there be equal to a dollar here? A. Yes.

Q. Were you married in the old country? A. Yes.

Q. Did you have a house? A. Yes.

Q. What rent did you pay? A. Nothing.

Q. Have you a house here? A. Yes.

Q. What rent do you pay for it? A. I pay \$2.50 a month.

Q. Is it comfortable? A. Pretty comfortable.

Q. Do you get coal from the company? A. Yes.

Q. What do they charge a ton for it? A. They charge \$1.60 a ton.

Q. Are you within the limits? A. Yes.

Q. What would be the charge if you were not within the limits? A. It would be about the same. A man has a contract for hauling it, and it is all one price near and far, unless it goes to an extreme.

Q. Were you ever fined here on account of the quality of the coal sent up not being up to the standard? A. Many times.

Q. What would be the most you have paid? A. I suppose I have paid three shillings.

Q. Who would be the judge of the quality? A. Some old fellow from the country, perhaps, who never saw coal.

Q. When would you know the amount? A. They take the coal out and lay it to one side and put a number on it to satisfy you that it came up in your box.

Q. When you come up you can look to see what was taken out? A. I generally did.

Q. Did you ever raise any objection? A. I did.

Q. What would be the answer? A. It would be very short at that time.

Q. Is it generally the intention of miners to have the coal as clean as possible? A. I don't think any wise miner would put in bad coal intentionally. I did not load myself; the loaders do it. Some of them put in a good deal and some of them put in none, yet I have been fined.



Q. How do you find the cost of living in this country compared with the cost of living at home. Is flour cheaper at home? A. I could not tell.

Q. How was it when you came out? A. I think it was two shillings a stone.

Q. Did it cost more to live at home than here? A. No.

Q. Would it cost as much? A. It would be about the same. Clothes do not seem to have the same wear here, and boots do not last as long. When I was a boy a pair of boots that served one would serve others; and we never went barefoot.

Q. Do you pay for goods as you buy them, or do you buy on credit? A. I buy where I can get them the cheapest.

Q. Do you find a difference in buying with ready money? A. Yes; you save 25 per cent. by doing so. When we had fortnightly pay, as we always had in the old country, I knew a man that lived next door to me who did not go on his pay; consequently, when a man came along with potatoes, I got them for 35 cents a bushel, while he had to come up the road and get them booked at the shop for 45 cents a bushel. We got eggs at 16 cents a dozen, while he came up the road to the shop and had them booked at 22 cents. Had I not gone to the office and got my pay I expect that I would have had to pay 45 cents for my potatoes, and for everything else in proportion.

Q. You are in favor of payments being made every fortnight? A. Yes.

Q. How much taxes do you pay? A. About \$4 a year.

Q. Do you pay towards the doctor? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any objection to paying that? A. No.

Q. Does he charge anything extra for lying-in cases? A. Yes.

Q. How much? A. \$3.

Q. Do they generally supply medicine? A. No; they give you a couple of pills once in a while.

Q. Do they give you prescriptions to take to the drug store? A. Yes; and they know how to charge.

Q. Is there any other information you can give than you have stated that would be beneficial? A. I don't know. Some time ago there was an Act passed that every man and underground manager should be a certified man, and should have to pass a board of examination as to his competency.

Q. Do you think that would be necessary? A. It was passed, but three years have gone by and it has not been put in force. If it was enforced it would be a different thing with me. I studied up and went through the examinations, but it has never been put in force. If it was any good at that time it should be good now; and if it was passed it should be enforced or taken out of the law.

Q. Has the association communicated with the Government in respect to it? A. I think so.

Q. Have they ever recommended that it should be enforced? A. I could not say lately whether they have done much.

Q. Are you generally satisfied with your employment; is there much grumbling among the men? A. I never was in any mine where there was not.

Q. From your knowledge of mining at home, are the men as well satisfied here as they are at home? A. Some of them are pretty well satisfied. Twenty-two went away a week ago, and a number more will go to-morrow.

Q. Where do they go? A. They go to the North-West; that is evidence that they are not satisfied here.

Q. Do the managers treat you in a fair spirit in regard to any complaints you make? A. They always receive any man that goes to them civilly and squarely, and give him fair treatment.

Q. You think they are pretty fair, decent, honest men? A. Yes.

NEW GLASGOW, 19th April, 1888.

ANDREW WALKER, manager Nova Scotia Glass Works, sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What business are you in and how many men do you employ? A. I am manager of the Nova Scotia Glass Works.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What description of glassware do you make? A. We manufacture table-ware and lamp goods.

Q. About how many hands do you employ altogether? A. We employ 110 hands.

Q. How many of these are glass blowers? A. There are 13 people working regularly, that is gaffers. They work in gangs. In making chimneys there is a blower and a gatherer. The gatherer takes the metal out of the pot and goes through a part of the process before he hands it to the blower, who next passes it to a boy who puts the crimp on the top of the chimney or finishes it off. Counting the gaffers we have 13 blowers.

Q. What is the average wages of gaffers? A. From \$2.50 to \$3.50 a day.

Q. How many hours a day do they work? A. Most of their work is piece work. A good man gets through his work in six or seven hours.

Q. What is the average number of hours they work? A. Not more than seven and a half hours.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. I suppose they cannot work more on account of the heat? A. Yes; but the Glass Blower's Union establishes so many articles as forming a day's work.

Q. If they work less or over that they are paid in proportion? A. Yes.

Q. Do you have to empty off every night? A. No; we have a night gang too, but we like to have them empty as soon as possible.

Q. The assistants of glass blowers, what do they earn? A. They earn from \$1.10 to \$1.50 a day.

Q. Are they men or boys? A. They are half grown boys of from 15 to 18 years of age.

Q. Will they learn to be skilled blowers in time? A. Yes; four of the blowers in the thirteen were last year in the position of assistants and have been promoted to be gaffers or foremen.

Q. They work the same number of hours? A. Yes.

Q. The boys who do the finishing what are their ages? A. 14, 15, 16, and along there.

Q. Will they in course of time become first assistants? A. Yes; as soon as we have a position open we push them forward.

Q. What are their earnings about? A. They are from 80 to 90 cents a day.

Q. Do these boys mostly live with their parents? A. Yes; pretty nearly all of them. I only know of one case where a boy did not live with his parents, and he has left us.

Q. Then on the pressed ware do you have gangs on that? A. Yes.

Q. What are the different men in one gang? A. The presser and the gatherer; the presser may have two, three, or five boys, according to the article he is making. An article like this tumbler requires seven boys and a man to make.

Q. Are they all in one gang? A. Yes.

Q. The man who takes the metal out of the pot, what do you call him? A. The gatherer.

Q. What are his wages? A. From \$1.10 to \$1.50 a day.

Q. The man who works the press, what are his wages? A. From \$2.25 to \$3 a day.

Q. He has charge of the gang? A. Yes.

Q. The boy who takes the articles away when it is pressed, what is he called?  
A. The carrying-in boy.

Q. What does he receive? A. From 50 to 60 or 70 cents a day according to his proficiency. Some get more than others. The article is carried on an iron paddle and some buys are more likely to chip it than others.

Q. Then the article is reheated and finished? A. Yes.

Q. Who is the person employed on this work? A. The finisher.

Q. What wages will he receive? A. \$3 a day.

Q. The boys that assist him what do they receive? A. They are the same that work with the presser.

Q. And these boys taking them all through, what are their earnings? A. From 50 to 80 cents.

Q. Those working on the pressed ware, do they work the same number of hours as those who blow? A. No; they work shorter hours. I have known men get through their day's work in 6 hours; and never over seven or eight hours.

Q. At the end of this time they will leave? A. Yes.

Q. You work at night? A. Yes.

Q. Does the night gang work the same number of hours as the day gang?  
A. No; not quite so many; we put a poorer class of goods on and they get through sooner.

Q. Do they earn the same wages? A. Yes; but we have then only what we call the unfinished work.

Q. Do you work at both blowing and pressing? A. Yes.

Q. Do the same gangs work day and night all the time? A. No; they alternate.

Q. Do the men prefer that? A. I think so; it has always been the custom in glass houses.

Q. Do you make that arrangement in consultation with the men? A. Yes; at the beginning of every fire the men are called to the office and we make the arrangement with them.

Q. How frequently do you pay the men? A. We pay them once a week.

Q. What is the day of payment? A. Saturday. We only work half a day on Saturday, and commence paying at 11 o'clock. We pay up to Thursday in order to give the cashier time to make up his pay roll.

Q. Do you pay in cash? A. Yes.

Q. Do you pay everything in full up to Thursday? A. Yes; we pay everything in full up to Thursday morning.

Q. Do you supply the men with goods of any description? A. None whatever.

Q. Have you any control over the men, or do you seek to control the men as to where they shall buy goods? A. None at all.

Q. When they are paid they are at liberty to spend their money wherever they please? A. Certainly.

Q. Does the company own any houses? A. No.

Q. Where do the hands come from for the most part? A. At present we have only, as near as I can tell from memory, fifteen foreigners. We had more, but we are gradually working to our own countrymen.

Q. That is to those learning the business with you? A. Yes.

Q. They come in as boys and work up? A. Yes. Of course this factory has been only six years in operation and that is our system now.

Q. When you began you had to import all your hands? A. Yes.

Q. Because there were no skilled hands here? A. Yes.

Q. And your policy now is to educate the people so as to supply yourselves wholly with home labor? A. Yes; that is our policy.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Are there any men earning \$3 a day now that you took on as boys? A. No.

Q. Are there any earning \$2.50? A. Yes; some more than that.



By Mr. FREED:—

Q. If a good, smart, intelligent boy comes to you at 15 or 16 years of age, how soon could he become an expert blower or presser? A. I have had hardly enough experience in the business to say, but I would say in six years' time.

Q. Is glass blowing very injurious to the health? A. Yes; very; but the glass blowers as a class are a very dry lot, and drink hard. As to the trade being injurious I don't think there is anything in that.

Q. Is there anything in glass-blowing that induces men to drink? A. I don't think so.

Q. Is there anything to make them worse in that respect than others? A. No; that is my experience. The first gang we had, we had to let them go on that account.

Q. Were they so dissipated that you could not get them to work when you desired them to do so? A. They would only work whenever they saw fit. Some of them only worked enough to keep themselves in drink.

Q. Are the men you have now more steady? A. As a rule, with few exceptions, they are fairly steady.

Q. The boys that come in to work for you, are they well conducted? A. Yes.

Q. Are they well educated? A. Most of them have a fair common school education. They can read and write.

Q. You do not enquire whether they are well educated or not, I presume? A. No.

Q. Do you employ any women? A. We have three girls.

Q. What do they do? A. They are employed wrapping up glass goods in tissue paper before they are packed.

Q. Do women do this work better than men? A. Yes; men are too clumsy.

Q. How many hours do these women work? A. From  $8\frac{1}{2}$  to 9 hours.

Q. What do they earn? A. They earn from 60 to 70 cents a day according to their dexterity.

Q. What is the highest they would earn? A. That is about the highest. It is a thing that does not require much skill.

Q. Have you a special class of men at the annealing furnaces? A. Yes; we have two at night and two at day.

Q. What do they earn? A. They earn \$8.75 a week.

Q. Have you any unskilled labor outside the classes you have already spoken of? A. Not more than five men.

Q. What do they earn? A. They earn from \$1 to \$1.10 a day.

Q. Do you know whether any of the men working for you own houses? A. Some of them do.

Q. Could you tell us how many? A. I could not. There would be under half a dozen. I know that some of them own houses. I know of four who do, and there may be one or two more.

Q. Are those people who own houses those who have come from abroad or those who have been educated here? A. Some of them have come from abroad, two families.

Q. Are you in a position to tell the Commission whether any of those who have not bought houses have saved money in any other form? A. Not positively; I only know from hearsay.

Q. How long do you shut down in the summer season if at all? A. We shut down for five or six weeks during the warmest part of the season, in July and August.

Q. What would be the average length of time taking one year with another? A. About five weeks.

Q. Do the men as a rule acquiesce in the shutting down, or is it a matter beyond their control? A. They have to acquiesce in it, because it is a matter of necessity, the furnaces would not turn out the glass.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. You have to clear the pots out? A. That does not interfere with the business.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Where do you get your crucibles? A. We manufacture them on the ground.

Q. Do you get your clay in Canada or do you import it? A. We import it. It is all fire clay. We get it in Missouri, United States.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have you a foreigner to make your pots? A. No; he is a native of the town. We formerly had an American and this man was his assistant, and picked it up, and now makes pots that stand as good as any foreign pots.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Are your presses imported? A. Yes; they are all American. They come from Pittsburg. They are manufactured by a firm there. These we consider the best and we therefore get them. They are better than the English.

Q. You say you have some girls working; have you separate closets for the girls and for the men? A. Yes.

Q. Are they apart? A. Yes; they are apart.

Q. Are they in the same building? A. No.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What coal do you use? A. We use bituminous coal.

Q. Do you find it to be good and fit for your work? A. Some of it had too much sulphur in it. There is only one kind here that we can work with to advantage.

Q. What is that? A. It is from the Drummond colliery. The other has too much sulphur in it and is apt to color the glass. Even the Drummond mine coal sometimes bothers us. We can use any coal that cokes nicely whether it had sulphur or not.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you find that the boys interfere with the machinery around your institution? A. No; we have very little except the engine, which is in charge of an engineer.

Q. Have the men ever had their wages garnisheed? A. Sometimes.

Q. How is it put in, say a man owes a bill of \$10 or \$20? A. The papers are left at the office and the man pays so much a week. A dollar a week is about the average amount, but there are very few cases. We have not had half a dozen.

Q. Can you give us the amount of the expenses? A. No.

Q. Have you ever considered the question of the employés sharing the profits? A. No; it is a stock company.

Q. Has the company ever considered the advisability of allowing the men to buy stock, or have any men bought stock? A. Only one man employed that I know of is the owner of stock. There is no objection to men buying stock at any time; it is in the open market.

Q. The man who bought stock: is he more interested in the institution than the others? A. He is a very good man, and would be interested whether he had stock or not.

Q. About how do the wages compare here and in Pittsburgh and elsewhere where they make the same wares? A. I think, for goods of the same quality, the price here is lower.

Q. What proportion would they be? A. I could not say.

Q. Have you ever had any strikes in your concern? A. No.

Q. You say there is a society of glass blowers: have you had any trouble with them? A. No.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Is there any difference, from your knowledge, in the cost of living here and in Pennsylvania? A. There must be a difference; I know from personal experience that I can keep house here for less than half what it cost me in the United States, and do it better.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you ever have fines in your concern for inferior work? A. No; they are not fined; if the work does not pass it is broken and they are not paid for it. If a man makes 100 articles and 25 of them are not fit to pack, he is not paid for the 25 but only for the 75.

Q. Do the men ever work on Sunday? A. No; only the fireman and the watchman. The fireman has to keep the fires up.

Q. Have you any tenement houses? A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. The men's water closets: what condition are they kept in? A. They are in good condition now; they were all fixed up last week.

Q. Do you, as a rule, keep them in fairly respectable condition? A. Yes.

Q. How frequently are they cleaned? A. Whenever it is necessary.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Would it not be beneficial occasionally to see that they are in proper condition? A. It might be.

HENRY RITCHIE, of J. Matheson & Co.'s iron foundry, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What company do you represent? A. J. Matheson & Co.

Q. What work does your establishment turn out? A. Boilers, engines and castings.

Q. About how many hands of all classes have you employed? A. 47.

Q. How many of those are boiler makers? A. 12.

Q. How many of them are machinists? A. 5.

Q. How many are blacksmiths? A. One at present. When we are busy we employ two.

Q. How many moulders have you? A. We have 6.

Q. How many laborers have you? A. We have 14.

Q. Do you employ any boys? A. Yes; we have 6.

Q. Have you any apprentices? A. Yes; we have 6 apprentices.

Q. What would be the daily earnings of the blacksmiths? A. They would average 17 cents an hour.

Q. About what would the machinists earn? A. They would earn 15½ cents an hour.

Q. How many hours a day would they work? A. 10 hours.

Q. The boiler makers, what do you pay them? A. They average 16 cents an hour.

Q. The moulders? A. They average 17½ cents. The best boiler maker will get 17½ cents, and the moulders will get that too. We have a few inferior boiler makers, which reduces the average.

Q. At what rates of pay do the boys begin? A. They get \$1 a week the first year, \$1.20 the second, \$1.40 the third, and \$1.80 the fourth.

Q. They serve four years? A. Yes. The average is 4.3 an hour.

Q. How many hours constitute a day's work all around? A. 10 hours.

Q. Do the men ever work extra time? A. Yes; especially the boiler makers.

Q. What would be the latest they would work? A. I have known them work all day and night and part of the next day.



Q. Is that optional with them? A. Yes.

Q. What do they get? A. After 6 o'clock, if they are working outside, they only work 9 hours—that is a rule of the trade; but at night they get an hour and a half for every hour. It is very hard work, and that is a special rule of the trade.

Q. Do they ever work on Sunday? A. Not with the knowledge of the concern. I have known men to do it without consulting any one, but the orders are not to.

Q. Do your works run all the time or do they close down? A. They very seldom close down, not more than for a day or two.

Q. Is the number of hands kept pretty steady, or have you large numbers at one time and few at another? A. The numbers never run below 30.

Q. The hands that work occasionally are they idle when they are not working for you or do they find employment elsewhere? A. The boiler makers shift about; the trade is up and down. The busiest time is now; we could put on 20 men, but sometimes we have to let them go.

Q. How frequently do you pay your hands? Do you pay them fortnightly? A. We pay the hands to Saturday, but we pay them on Friday night. They are paid fortnightly.

Q. Have your men asked for more frequent pay? A. No.

Q. Do you think they are satisfied with fortnightly pay? A. I think so. I have never heard any complaints.

Q. Would it not be an advantage to the men if they were paid weekly? A. I don't think it.

Q. Would they ask for it if they thought they would be benefited by it? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do they ever get advances? A. Sometimes, but the best class of men do not ask for them.

Q. Do you give advances when they ask for them? A. Sometimes. It is optional with me.

Q. Do the men who work for you own houses of their own? A. I think eleven of them do.

Q. Have they paid for them out of their wages or have they had other means? A. I could not tell.

Q. Are the houses paid for? A. I don't know.

Q. Are you in a position to say whether the men have saved money independent of their houses? A. No; they are Scotchmen; that is all I can say.

Q. Do you keep any stores or supply the men with any goods? A. No.

Q. Not with any flour? A. No.

Q. Do you supply any of them with coal? A. Very rarely; sometimes they divide a car between them, but no profit is charged.

Q. What kind of water-closets have you for the use of the men? A. They would not be called first-class ones; most of the men do not live far away; we have one which is kept in pretty good order.

Q. Would it be a difficult matter to keep it in good sanitary condition? A. No.

Q. Is it far from the premises? A. No; it is within 20 or 30 yards.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Have you had any labor troubles with your men? A. None that I can recollect.

Q. Have you had any strikes? A. None at all.

Q. Have you had any demands for increased pay? A. That is always in order. Whenever a busy time comes a few will ask for more.

Q. How do you settle the matter, by arbitration or by talking the matter over? A. By talking the matter over.

Q. None of them have taken the form of a strike? A. No.

Q. Have you reduced the pay at any time within a few years? A. I don't remember any time at present.

Q. At all events no difficulties have occurred? A. No.

Q. Have the men ever asked for a reduction of the hours of work? A. No; only we may have trouble if a man goes out or he may have trouble with the man he works for; he may work nine hours and insist on being paid for ten, and we insist that he shall have it.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. What do you pay a laboring man a day? A. We pay him \$1.10; if a man is worth anything he is worth that.

Q. Would they be the persons who would ask for money? A. Not necessarily.

Q. You say the best class of men do not ask for money? A. I referred to the quality of the men. A man might save money on a dollar a day. Perhaps I would not go as low as that, but we have got men who get 13 cents an hour, who bring up a family and are comfortable, comparatively, whereas men who get \$2 a day are always hard up.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Have you had cases of garnishee? A. Yes; I have a case now; it is a garnishee for \$100. I think it a very objectionable thing. The order comes from the County Court Judge. I object as a rule to stopping anything from a man.

Q. Suppose you are served with a garnishee order and a man is employed by you, what do you keep off a week? A. We keep off a dollar a fortnight.

Q. Suppose the man leaves in two months are you responsible? A. No; I think the matter of payment is one of arrangement with the lawyer. The order merely says to stop \$100, and the arrangement as to how much per week is to be stopped is made with the lawyer.

Q. The order does not require you to pay money not due? A. No.

Q. Do you have many of these orders served on you? A. No; we had one before, a great many years ago.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Have men left your employment so as to evade the orders? A. In the other case the man left, but I think he intended to leave any way.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you think the use of machinery has cheapened labor to any extent? A. I can hardly answer that.

Q. Did you employ more men five years ago than you do now? A. I don't think so; we have had as many as 50, but we are as busy at present as ever.

PETER GRAHAM, manager of woollen mill, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am manager of the woollen mill.

Q. Where is it situated? A. It is seven miles up the line.

Q. How many hands do you employ? A. I think we have between 40 and 44.

Q. How do you divide your hands as to skill and occupation? A. They are in different rooms. We have boys who go in, who attend the cards, up to the chief carder.

Q. How many of the 44 are skilled workmen? A. About 12.

Q. What would be their fair daily average earnings? A. From \$1.15 to \$2 a day.

Q. That is for skilled men? A. Yes.

Q. Those who earn \$1.15, how long have they been working? A. Three or four years. They have gone in as boys, at 60 cents a day and have worked up.

Q. Do the smallest boys earn 60 cents? A. No; 54 cents is the smallest.

Q. How rapidly do you increase their wages? A. If they are smart they get 90 cents in 18 months or two years.

Q. Do you employ any unskilled labor? A. None but boys who come in and some girls.

Q. How many girls or women do you employ? A. I think there would be 24 women out of the 44.

Q. What do they earn when they begin? A. They go in at 54 cents a day.

Q. How old are they as a rule when they enter? A. I think there are none under 17.

Q. Do you take any young boys? A. The youngest we have or take is 14. We have only one.

Q. When girls learn the trade what do they earn? A. One last week made \$9.

Q. That is an extreme case, I suppose? A. She makes from \$20 to \$28 a month. Two or three of the weavers make \$20 a month.

Q. Have you separate water closets for the men and women? A. Yes.

Q. Are the approaches separate? A. Yes.

Q. Are they kept in good sanitary condition? A. Yes.

Q. What are your hours of work? A. Ten hours a day.

Q. Do you ever work at night in the carding-room? A. Yes; perhaps a quarter of a day twice a week.

Q. Do they receive pay at the day rate? A. They go home for supper and get that in; they do not get anything extra.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What kinds of cloth do you produce? A. From pretty fine tweed to pretty coarse cloth.

Q. Do you make any flannels? A. Yes.

Q. How often do you pay? A. We pay monthly.

Q. Have you a store in connection with the mill? A. We have a store for what we produce in the mill.

Q. You sell that at cost to the hands, I suppose? A. Yes.

Q. Where do you find a market for your goods? A. All through the Province.

Q. Do you go outside? A. We go to New Brunswick sometimes.

Q. Have you a ready sale for what you produce? A. We carry a five or six thousand dollar stock, but we are kept pretty busy, doing as much as we can turn out.

Q. Have you ever had trouble with your men? A. No.

Q. Have you ever had any strikes? A. No.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. How many of the skilled workmen get \$2 a day? A. Only one of them.

Q. When your employes are paid are they paid in full? A. They are paid between the 10th and the 15th of the month for the last month.

Q. Do they ask to be paid more frequently? A. No; whenever they want money they ask for it, and they always get it.

Q. Are there any penalties? A. We have a board for the weavers, but we never enforce it.

Q. Then you have no system of fining? A. No.

Q. Is there no fine if they are late in the morning? A. No.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Have you had any garnishees served upon you? A. No.

Q. Do you ever import any foreign labor? A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What wool do you use? A. We use about a third foreign, and the rest we get around the country.

Q. Is Canadian wool coarse or fine? A. I don't know what you would call it.



Q. Is there any improvement in the wool? A. There is some merino sheep wool, that we get very little of; that is very good. There are a few droves in the county and in Antigonish that are splendid wool.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How many years ago since you commenced manufacturing? A. Two years.

Q. Altogether? A. Yes.

Q. Have you seen any improvement in the quality of the wool since then? A. No; except with regard to the merino wool.

Q. Does it cost more a pound? A. Yes; it costs five cents a pound more. We like to have it.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. How many stories high is your building? A. Three.

Q. Are there any persons working on the top floor? A. No; it is kept for a store-room.

Q. Are there any fire escapes? A. No; there is a tower.

Q. Are the doors kept locked in the day time? A. No.

HENRY TOWNSEND, stock farmer, sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Will you state the improvement in horses and cattle that has taken place to your knowledge within the past few years, or whether there has been any? A. There has been an improvement, no doubt; we are improving all the time in our breeds. There is more interest taken now in breeding horses than there was.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Has there been a corresponding improvement in the sales? A. Yes.

Q. Do the improved breeds pay as well the man who raises them as the old breeds? A. They pay better; the better horses you produce, the more money you get for them.

Q. When you speak of cattle, does that cover all kinds of cattle, both horses and cows? A. Yes; there is a decided improvement in all our farm stock, horses, cows, pigs, poultry and all.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Generally speaking, has there been an improvement within five or ten years? A. Yes; there has been an improvement in the immediate vicinity of agricultural societies. Six years ago we formed a society here and bought thoroughbred stock and placed them in such a way that the farmers who were members or who were not could obtain their use, and a number of farmers have taken advantage of that and have improved their stock. They have now a fairly good grade of milk cows; we have a better class of sheep, and altogether there is an improvement in that line.

Q. Do you understand what kind of horses are necessary for the British cavalry? A. No, except from what I have read in the papers.

Q. Can you form an estimate of the proper kind of horses required? A. I have an idea.

Q. Do you think we are tending in that direction in any particular for raising that kind of stock? A. No; I don't think we study that market at all.

Q. Are you aware that there is a demand and that there is likely to be a demand for that kind of horses? A. I know there was and is a demand for them.

Q. Do you think it likely that any of the farmers will avail themselves of that market. A. It is likely that they will. A year ago we thought of importing mares and breeding that class of horses, but we did not do it. The standard is very high.

Q. What class of cattle do you raise? A. In horses we raise the American trotting horse.

Q. I mean in meat cattle? A. We raise only Jerseys.

Q. Is the demand increasing or otherwise? A. We do not sell as many as we did a year or two ago, but I think the market is better. We do not get as high prices and do not sell as many, but the market is more healthy.

Q. Have the Jerseys come to about a fair value? A. I think so.

Q. Do they endeavor to keep the breed as pure as before? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Where do you sell your Jerseys for the most part? A. We sell some in the States. The buyers are in the cities and villages who want a cow.

Q. When you sell to foreigners, how do you sell? A. They come here and buy. I deliver mine in St. John.

Q. At the risk of the parties? A. Yes; after that. I made some enquiry as to the means of improving stock in reference to the question of cavalry horses, and I was told that each year the Government cull from the cavalry horses a certain number. Some of the regiments have all mares. The Government cull out a certain percentage of these each year for some trifling cause that would not interfere with their use for breeding purposes and sell them. I was told that these mares could be had at very reasonable prices. If we could get the mares, we could probably manage about the horses.

Q. You think that a great deal depends on the mare? A. I think so; our people depend too much on the horses. We can work up quicker by having good mares.

Q. Has there been an improvement in truck horses? A. Yes; some improvement. During my own time there has been an improvement, though years ago they say that this county was noted for having good heavy draft horses. At present we are not as well advanced in that direction, but we are improving, and there is a good demand and a ready sale for all the draft horses we raise.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. There is also an improvement in sheep? A. Yes; I tried sheep for years, but had to give them up on account of the dogs. There are no merino sheep here. The sheep referred to by the last witness as such are Southdowns.

Q. Has there been a corresponding improvement in hogs? A. Yes; but many farmers have not taken advantage of their opportunities. They stick to the old stock.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Do you do anything in beef cattle? A. Very little; some dealers here have bought thoroughbred Durhams, but our pastures are not adapted for that. We do not prepare our pastures. Our natural pasture is fairly good, but we do not prepare it for permanent pasture.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Can you tell us the price of beef by the quarter in the fall and early winter? A. That is no mark of the value of beef. Many of the farmers reduce their stock in the fall, and kill off anything like beef. It is not beef. They sell it for 3 and 4 cents a pound. Last fall there was good healthy beef selling at 3, 4 and 5 cents.

Q. Was that for the side or the quarter? A. For the side; if you bought separately you might have to pay for the choice.

Q. Do many of the working people buy beef by the quarter? A. I don't know; I suppose they do.

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ROBERT SIMPSON, manager, Drummond Mine, sworn and examined.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What mine have you? A. The Intercolonial Companies Drummond Mine.

Q. About how many hands do you employ? A. About 450 men and boys.

Q. Do you work single shift or double? A. It is just as circumstances suit, sometimes single and sometimes double.

Q. What prices do you pay cutters by the ton? A. We have never paid colliers by the ton; we pay by the cubic yard.

Q. What prices do you pay? A. We pay 40 cents.

Q. Is that a uniform price? A. Yes; you may say that is.

Q. Do you pay uniform prices throughout the mine? A. Yes.

Q. Do you make no difference on account of the hardness of the coal or the thickness of the seam? A. The seam is all of a similar nature.

Q. About how many hours a day do your cutters work? A. They work from five to seven hours.

Q. Are you able to tell us of the average daily wages of a coal cutter? A. Our cutters make from \$1.60 to \$2.25, but I think the average would be \$2.

Q. You think they average that for every day they work? A. Yes.

Q. The shovellers what do they earn? A. The loaders earn from \$1.25 to \$1.40. It depends on the place they are in, but the average of loaders is \$1.25.

Q. This is paid by the cutters? A. Yes.

Q. When you said the daily average of cutters was \$2, was that the net earnings? A. Yes; after paying all expenses.

Q. Is that higher or lower than other mines in this district? A. I think wages at the Drummond are a little above other mines.

Q. What do you pay drivers? A. We pay them from 60 to 80 cents and \$1; it depends on the position they are in. If they have a particular position we give them \$1. The second grade gets 80 cents and the third grade 60 cents.

Q. About what are the ages? A. From 14 to 16.

Q. The boys who attend the doors, the trappers, what do you pay them? A. We pay them 50 cents a day.

Q. Is that the lowest? A. Yes.

Q. What is the lowest age at which you take a trapper? A. The lowest is 12 years.

Q. Are there many of that age? A. I think all we have are from 12 to 14.

Q. When boys come at 12 years, do they come at their own option or do their parents bring them? A. Their parents bring them.

Q. Would the boys rather remain at school or come to the mine? A. I have never heard of boys being forced to come; it is their inclination.

Q. Do the parents bring the boys at that age because they need the money? A. I don't know. I think it is to get the family to know what it is to work.

Q. Would not the boys be better off if they remained at school? A. Yes; but it is difficult to get them to do so.

Q. Does your company own houses which it rents to the men? A. Yes.

Q. What is the cost of a double house? A. \$450.

Q. What rent do you receive? A. From \$1.50 to \$2. For double houses we get \$2.

Q. From each tenant? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any larger houses? A. We have a few for the men in charge of the different departments, but generally the houses are all single and double.

Q. Do some of the men have houses which are not owned by the company? A. Yes; many of them.

Q. Do they pay higher rents? A. Yes; in the village.

Q. Are the houses convenient to the men's work? A. Yes; they are only about 300 yards away.

Q. Are the houses owned by outsiders near the mine? A. The furthest away would be three-quarters of a mile.

Q. Do many miners own houses? A. Yes; a good many of them.

Q. Can they procure land on reasonable terms within a reasonable distance of the mine? A. I don't know; the land is pretty well taken up around the mine. It could be procured a mile and a half away very cheap, if the people wished to take it up.



Q. How much would a fifty foot lot cost at that distance? A. It would cost very little; perhaps from \$30 to \$40 an acre.

Q. How near the mine could a man buy a vacant lot of 50 feet front? A. About half a mile from the mine we have property that we would sell for building purposes. We have laid it off in acre lots, and would charge for it at the rate of \$60 an acre.

Q. Do many of the men buy them? A. A considerable number have taken them.

Q. Do you impose any conditions on the sale, or is it absolute; do you retain the privilege of sinking shafts or of interfering in any way with the land? A. No; there is no reservation.

Q. Is it land that has been mined under or that is likely to be? A. No.

Q. How frequently do you pay your hands? A. They are paid monthly. We have a general pay once a month, but we give them a sub-pay once a fortnight.

Q. Does that amount to about what they have earned at that time? A. Yes; about.

Q. Does it involve any great increase of labor or expense to make the sub-pay? A. It is an increase of labor, but we do not find it a great inconvenience.

Q. Does the convenience to the men outweigh the inconvenience to the company? A. I think it is for their convenience.

Q. Do you keep a store? A. No.

Q. Do you supply the men in any way? A. We supply them with powder.

Q. Do you supply them with powder because it would be dangerous to permit a general dealing in it, or because of the profit? A. We do so because it is less dangerous to the community. We have a magazine for the purpose of keeping powder.

Q. Do you supply the men with oil? A. Yes.

Q. Do you make a profit on that? A. No; we give it to them.

Q. Do you supply them with lamps? A. Yes.

Q. What safety lamps do you use? A. We use the Clanny Safety.

Q. Is that as safe as any? A. I consider it the best I have seen.

Q. Does it give as much light as others? A. It gives more than others I have seen.

Q. If a miner breaks the glass of his lamp what do you charge him? A. We charge him the price of the glass, 35 cents.

Q. If he breaks the gauze what do you charge him? A. Just the same thing, whatever the price of the gauze is.

Q. Have you known miners to be prosecuted under the Mining Act for breaking the gauze? A. Yes.

Q. Is it a matter of frequent occurrence? A. No.

Q. Do you know of cases where miners have broken the gauze wilfully? A. I cannot say that I have. There may have been cases where they were vicious and broke the lamps wilfully but I cannot recollect.

Q. Do you know of miners opening their lamps to light their pipes? A. No.

Q. If a lamp goes out are the men permitted to light it? A. Not unless they go to the lighting station.

Q. Do the men light matches in the mine? A. The shot firers have to do so.

Q. Have you known accidents to take place in consequence of lighting matches? A. Many explosions take place where you cannot get at the facts. You may surmise the cause.

Q. Have you had any fatal explosions of gas in your mine? A. We have only had one the last fifteen years.

Q. How long ago was that? A. It was in 1873.

Q. That was a very bad one, I believe? Yes. A. There was another slight explosion. We went through the old workings and there was a slight explosion there.

Q. Do you go into the mine by a slope or by a shaft? A. We have a slope to the main seam and a shaft to the second seam.

Q. Do you take the men up and down? A. Yes.

Q. Does the advantage outweigh the trouble and cost to the company of carrying them? A. It puts us to considerable inconvenience, but it accommodates the men.

Q. Do you think that this is something that ought to be done by the company? Yes; I think the men are entitled, after a hard day's work, to be taken out.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Are your men served with garnishee orders? A. Sometimes.

Q. Are they served on many? A. No; on very few. I never saw a mine so clear of them as the Drummond mine.

Q. Do you ever have labor troubles? A. We have had very little these few years back.

Q. When you did have them how were they usually settled? A. We discussed the point among the men, and generally, after considerable discussion, we arrived at a decision. Sometimes it is scarcely possible to get a settlement with them.

Q. Have you ever men on the black list who have taken a prominent part in strikes and came to you as delegates? A. No; I have never made any difference or taken up any feeling against a man who came as a delegate.

Q. How does the rate of wages compare here with the rate in the United States and in England? A. Our wages are about double what they are in England; but I cannot recollect how they compare with the wages in the United States. They are much less there.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are you in a position to state the average yearly earnings of coal cutters? A. Not at present; but I can give you the information.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Have you imported any foreign labor in connection with the mine? A. No.

Q. Do you think your men compare favorably with foreign coal cutters? A. They are much better than any coal cutters I know of.

Q. Are the men in the habit of saving any money and putting it in the banks? A. Yes; many of the men have cows, and horses, and waggons, and money in the bank besides. I cannot particularize, but one of my men had \$4,000 or \$5,000 in the bank.

Q. Did he save it out of his earnings? A. Yes.

HOWARD H. HAMILTON, of G. J. Hamilton & Sons, bakers, &c., sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your business? A. We carry on cracker and confectionery works.

Q. About how many hands do you employ? A. Last week we had 41 hands.

Q. How many of those are skilled workmen? A. There must be 15 skilled hands.

Q. Are those cracker bakers? A. Cracker and confectionery.

Q. What would be the average earnings of skilled workmen? A. From \$7.50 to \$15 a week.

Q. Those who work for \$7.50 a week, how long have they served? A. Some of them for five years or more.

Q. How many hands earn \$15.00 a week? A. Four or five.

Q. Are they foremen? A. Two of them are.

Q. When a boy commences at your place how much does he receive the first year? A. He gets \$2.50 the first year, and \$25 at the end of the year; the second year he gets \$3 a week and \$35 at the end of the year; the third year he gets \$3.50 a week and \$40 at the end of the year.

Q. If he leaves does he forfeit this? A. No; we pay him up to date and give him his proportion of the yearly allowance.

Q. Have you any women? A. We have eight or nine girls.

Q. What are their ages? A. I don't know exactly.

Q. Are there any very young children? A. No.

Q. What are their wages? A. \$2 a week.

Q. How many hours a day do they work? A. Ten hours, most of them. The bakers go about five in the morning and work an hour extra.

Q. Do you make soft bread? A. We do some.

Q. At what hour do the men employed on soft bread begin? A. They begin at five o'clock.

Q. What time are they through? A. Generally at about half-past five.

Q. If they begin at five o'clock in the morning are they able to get the work out in time for the morning delivery? A. We deliver at noon.

Q. Does that give satisfaction to your customers? A. It would be better if we could induce them to work at night and deliver in the morning.

Q. What do you pay skilled workmen on soft bread? A. We pay them from \$7.50 to \$12 a week.

Q. Do any besides the foreman get \$12? A. No; he gets \$12.50.

Q. How often do you pay your hands? A. We pay them once a week.

Q. When do you pay them? A. We pay on Saturday night.

Q. Do you pay them in full? A. Yes.

Q. Have you had any labor troubles? A. No; except if a boy gets saucy we bounce him.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Where do you find a market for your goods? A. In Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Cape Breton, Newfoundland, New Brunswick and a small quantity on the Gaspé coast.

Q. How long have you been engaged in the business? A. The business was started over 40 years ago, but we have only been in the regular cracker business 12 years.

Q. Has the business been fairly successful? A. It is continually growing. We had only nine hands ten years ago.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Have you separate conveniences for the men and women? A. We have a water closet divided into two compartments. We have no room for any other at present.

Q. Is there a partition between? A. No, except inside.

Q. The doors are in a line? A. Yes.

Q. Have any of the men employed by you properties of their own? A. Yes.

Q. Have they bought them out of their earnings? A. I suppose so. They had no other way of getting them.

Q. How long have your men been with you? A. We have had men for 15 or 18 years, perhaps longer. Some of the men have money to buy properties if they want to, but rent is low.

Q. Do you work on Sundays? A. Only a couple of hours on the soft bread, getting the sponges ready.

Q. Have you imported any foreign labor? A. We got a man from the States, from one of the leading cracker bakeries, but he went back. He did not know any more than we did ourselves.

Q. Do you ever fine your men? A. No.

Q. Suppose bad bread comes out burnt, through their carelessness? A. We have threatened to make them pay for it, but we have never done it.

Q. Have you ever had any accidents in your concern? A. We have had one or two. A fireman attempted to fool with some machinery and got his arm off.

Q. When men get hurt does the concern pay their expenses? A. We have not had any experience of that.

Q. Have you any apprentices? A. Yes.



Q. Are they indentured? A. No.

Q. It is just a verbal arrangement? A. Yes.

Q. Have you a general store? A. Yes.

Q. Do the men deal with you? A. The bulk of them do. There is no compulsion about it.

Q. When you pay them on Saturday you keep out what they owe? A. No; they get an envelope with the full amount and they go to the office and pay what they owe.

Q. Do they get goods as cheap from you as elsewhere? A. Most people say they get them cheaper.

Q. You have had no trouble from labor combinations? A. No.

Q. Have you any system of profit sharing? A. No; our experience is that the men get the best share of the profits already.

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MAXWELL McKENNA, Pictou, tobacco manufacturer, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What class of tobacco do you manufacture? A. Twist.

Q. How many hands do you employ? A. Ten or twelve.

Q. Men and boys? A. Yes.

Q. Do you employ any women? A. No.

Q. What do the boys receive when they begin? A. They get \$2 a week.

Q. How rapidly do you increase their pay? A. Every five months about.

Q. Do they work by the piece? A. By the piece; the floor hands work by the day.

Q. When a boy finishes his time do you give him work? A. He can remain if he chooses.

Q. As a rule do they remain? A. As a rule they do not.

Q. What do piece hands earn? A. They earn from \$7 to \$10 a week.

Q. What would be their average earnings? A. \$8.

Q. Do you give them work all the year round? A. Yes.

Q. Can they work every lawful day? A. Yes; they have been in the habit of doing that.

Q. How often do you pay your hands? A. I pay them fortnightly.

Q. In cash? A. Yes.

Q. And in full? A. Yes.

Q. Do any of them own houses? A. They do.

Q. How many of them? A. I know of two, anyhow.

Q. What do your floor hands receive? A. From \$3 to \$7 a week.

Q. Do you search your men when they leave? A. I never made it a habit.

Q. Do you fine them? A. No.

Q. You have no system of fines? A. No.

Q. Do you ever punish boys for offences? A. Never.

Q. What is the age of your youngest boy? A. 15.

Q. Is there any age below which you would not employ a boy? A. They have not been in the habit of coming very young. I have seen them there at 13, but we have none there now below 15.

Q. Do the boys live with their parents? A. Yes.

Q. Have they had a fair education? A. All that are there have.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How is the sanitary condition of the institution? A. It is good.

Q. Have you a good water closet? A. Yes.

Q. Is it in the building? A. No.

Q. How many stories high is the building? A. It is two and a half stories.

Q. What opportunities are there of getting out in case of accident? Do the doors open out? A. Yes; we never had a fire except one time the door caught fire.

Q. How long do the men work? A. Eight hours in winter and ten hours in summer.

Q. Do they receive the same consideration? A. They work by piece work.

Q. How do the wages compare with other parts of Canada and the United States? A. I don't know.

Q. Have you had any trouble from strikes? A. None whatever.

Q. Have you any tenement houses in connection with your establishment? A. No.

Q. Have you had any garnishee orders served on your men? A. None that I know of.

Q. How long have the men been working with you that own houses? A. Between thirty and forty years. They were there when I took charge. They have money in the bank beside.

Q. What would be the value of their houses? A. Between \$1,500 and \$1,800.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you ever have accidents in your concern? A. No; we work by hand. We do not use hydraulic machinery.

A. C. McDONALD, Pictou, tanner, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your business? A. Tanning leather.

Q. How many hands do you employ? A. From 45 to 50 this time of year. We have 60 in summer.

Q. How many hours a day do your hands work? A. They work ten hours.

Q. What would be the wages of a skilled hand? A. \$7.50 a week.

Q. To unskilled hands what do you pay? A. \$6 a week.

Q. Do you get as many as you desire at that? A. Our wages run from that to \$9 a week.

Q. How many besides the foreman get \$9? A. I think only two.

Q. Do you employ any boys? A. No.

Q. Is the work too heavy for them? A. Yes; we cannot use them to advantage.

Q. It is cold work in winter, is it not? A. No; it is warm. It is all inside, except a few hands outside.

Q. Do you give constant employment all the year round? A. Yes; they get steady employment.

Q. Your hands can work every lawful day? A. If they desire they can.

Q. How frequently do you pay them? A. Every two weeks.

Q. Do you pay in full? A. Yes.

Q. And in cash? A. Yes.

Q. Do you keep a store to supply them with groceries or goods of any class? A. No.

Q. Do you own houses which the men occupy? A. Yes; some.

Q. What rents do you charge them? A. The highest is \$1 a week; from 75 cents to \$1.

Q. About how many rooms are there in a house that rents for \$1? A. It would be quite a small house.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Are they separate or are they tenements? A. Both; there are four or five rooms.

Q. Do you show any preference to men who live in your houses in work or in pay? A. No.

Q. It is optional with the men whether they live in your houses or in others? A. Yes.

Q. Have they ever asked for weekly payments? A. No.

Q. Have you ever considered the expediency of paying them weekly? A. No; I made up my mind to pay fortnightly and I have done so.

Q. They have not protested against it? A. No.

Q. Do any of your hands own their houses? A. Some of them do, but very few.

Q. Do you think any of them have saved money? A. I think so.

Q. Do you come to this conclusion from what they say? A. No.

Q. You have a general idea that they have saved money? A. Yes.

Q. You have no absolute knowledge I suppose? A. I never talked to them on the subject.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. You do not take apprentices? A. No.

Q. How do the wages you pay compare with those in the United States? A. I don't know.

Q. Do you know how they compare with those paid in other parts of Canada? A. No.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have any of the men worked for you a long time? A. They have been in the tannery a long time. Some of them have been there as many as 15 years.

Q. Have you ever had garnishee orders served on you for the men's wages? A. No.

Q. How is the sanitary condition of the establishment? A. There are all the necessary conveniences outside.

HUGH McKENNA, Pictou, employé, tobacco factory, sworn:

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Did you hear the evidence of Mr. McKenna in relation to the Pictou Tobacco Factory? A. Yes.

Q. With regard to the payment of the hands and matters coming under your own knowledge is it all correct? A. Yes.

Q. How long have you been in the business? A. For 12 or 13 years.

Q. What wages do you get? A. I get \$1.25 a day.

Q. Are there men who get higher wages? A. Yes; the men on piece work do.

Q. How many day workers are there? A. There are three of us.

Q. All the rest are piece workers? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Are you a married man? A. No.

Q. Do you board with your parents? A. Yes.

Q. What is the usual amount paid for weekly board? A. \$3 a week.

Q. Do you pay any taxes? A. Yes, I pay \$3.80.

Q. What are they? A. They are school and road taxes.

Q. Do you own any property of your own? A. No.

Q. Do you save much on a dollar and a quarter a day? A. No; I keep my mother and sister.

CLARENCE HAMILTON, Pictou, of G. J. Hamilton & Sons, bakers, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. You have heard the evidence of your brother? A. Yes.

Q. Are you a member of the firm also? A. Yes.

Q. Do you concur in every particular in what your brother has stated? A. Yes.



HERVEY TOREY, employé Nova Scotia Steel Works, sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

- Q. You are a heater in the steel works? A. Yes.  
 Q. How long have you been working at the steel works? A. For four years.  
 Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. I work 10 hours.  
 Q. You begin at 7 in the morning and work until 7 in the evening? A. Yes.  
 Q. Do you get constant employment the year round? A. Yes; if I wish it.  
 Q. Can you work every lawful day if you so desire? A. Yes; every lawful day.  
 Q. What are your wages? A. \$12 a week.  
 Q. Are you a married man? A. No; I am single.  
 Q. What can good board be got for near the works? A. Between \$3 and \$3.25.

By Mr. KELLY :—

- Q. Does that include washing? A. No.

By Mr. FREED :—

- Q. Do other heaters receive the same pay? A. Yes; except some on job work who average a little more.  
 Q. Do they average the same number of hours? A. Yes.  
 Q. Are there many heaters employed there? A. There are five.  
 Q. How frequently are you paid? A. We are paid half monthly.  
 Q. Are you paid up to the day of payment? A. No; we are paid on the 17th and 2nd of every month. We are paid from the 1st to the 15th.  
 Q. You are paid two days after the time? A. Yes.  
 Q. Are the periods of payment satisfactory to the men? A. I think so.  
 Q. You have not heard any general desire for weekly payments? A. No.  
 Q. You are paid in cash? A. Yes.  
 Q. And in full up to the time to which the payments are made up? A. Yes.  
 Q. Do you receive any goods of any kind from the company? A. No.  
 Q. Do the men live in houses owned by the company? A. No.  
 Q. Are there many accidents in the works? A. Not many.  
 Q. Is there any society or fund from which men get relief when they are sick or unable to work from accident? A. No; a subscription is generally taken up.  
 Q. Is there any company doctor? A. No; not that I know of.

By Mr. KELLY :—

- Q. Did you ever work elsewhere? A. No.  
 Q. You learned the business here in New Glasgow? A. Yes.  
 Q. How do wages here compare with wages elsewhere? A. I think they compare pretty favorably.  
 Q. Have you ever had any strikes? A. No; not since the works started.  
 Q. How do the managers treat you? A. Pretty fair.  
 Q. Have you had any troubles? A. No; no troubles.  
 Q. Have any of the men saved money? A. Some of them have.  
 Q. Are the habits of the men generally sober? A. Not very generally.  
 Q. Consequently the savings are not much? A. Any one who is sober can save.  
 Q. Have any of the men ever garnishees put on them? A. Not any.  
 Q. Are there water closets for the men? A. Yes.  
 Q. Are they in good condition? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED :—

- Q. Do you ever work at night? A. Yes; half the time.  
 Q. Do you get the day rate or are you paid extra? A. We work 12 hours at night and that makes a full week.  
 Q. The day and the night gangs take turns week about? A. Yes.  
 Q. Is that arrangement made by the men or by the managers? A. It is made by the managers.

Q. Do they consult the convenience of the men about it? A. No.

Q. Is that arrangement satisfactory to the men? A. I think so.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you know of any of the employés owning land? A. No.

ROBERT McNEIL, Warden of Pictou County, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What business are you engaged in? A. The manufacture of grindstones.

Q. How many men do you employ in the grindstone business? A. Some years more and some years less.

Q. Is your trade increasing or is it decreasing? A. It is decreasing.

Q. To what do you attribute the falling off? A. We send altogether to the American market, and we have a great deal of competition.

Q. Do you send any to Canada? A. No.

Q. Where does the competition come from? A. From Ohio.

Q. How many men have you employed? A. The lowest is ten men; that is in the summer only. We do not do anything in the winter. We have had as many as thirty men employed.

Q. What is the average wages paid your men? A. We generally hire them by the month and board them? The average wages would be from a dollar to two dollars a day.

Q. Do the men live in buildings that you own? A. We board and lodge them. We pay them from \$13 to \$25 a month.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Is there an unlimited quantity of stone in the quarries? A. We work different quarries.

Q. Have you ever sent stone to Ontario? A. I sent some to Montreal. I tried to introduce the stone there, but the railway freights shut us off.

Q. How does the grain of the stone compare with the Ontario stone? A. For some purposes it is better. It is better for cutlery and for saws.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Is the grain finer? A. It is hardly finer, but it finishes better; it does not scratch. I have tried the Canadian market with large stones for manufactures.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How does your stone work for grinding springs? A. Not very well.

Q. Have you tried sending it to Europe? A. No; we have to compete with them.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Have you known other stone from Nova Scotia going to Ontario? A. Not from Nova Scotia; I think some stone from New Brunswick does. The small quantity used in Ontario compared with the United States does not make it worth while to ship there by water, and it is too expensive to do so by rail.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you have any women employed? A. Nothing more than a cook.

Q. You have some other business in connection with farming? A. Yes.

Q. Is there any improvement in cattle or in the farming industry? A. The farming industry has improved with machinery. There is also a good deal of excitement about improved stock, but as a general thing the improved stock is not going to help ordinary farmers.

Q. Could they not find a ready sale for it? A. We have not a hay or a grazing country here. The improved stock do not thrive as well as the old stock unless they

are well fed. They require too much feed in winter, and in summer we have not the pastures. In reference to the grindstones I might add that we have a protective duty of \$2 a ton, and there is a duty of \$1.75 on the other side. The one does not help us and the other hurts us.

Q. Don't you think you should have an export duty? A. It would be a good thing.

Q. Do you ever use your stones for building purposes? A. Yes; but the stones we use for grindstones are too soft.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Is it like the Wallace stone? A. It is softer.

GRAHAM FRASER, manager Nova Scotia Steel Works, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. You are manager of the Nova Scotia Steel Works? A. Yes.

Q. Is there any other industry combined with that? A. No.

Q. Have you an interest in any other industry? A. I have.

Q. What is that? A. The Nova Scotia Forge Company.

Q. Are you manager of both? A. No.

Q. You are only manager of the Steel Works? A. Yes.

Q. How many men are employed in the Steel Works? A. There are 200 to-day.

Q. Is that a fair average of the number employed by you? A. The Steel Works are new. In 1884 the number of men employed was 110, and the number to-day is 200.

Q. Has there been a gradual increase or has the number fluctuated? A. There has been a gradual increase.

Q. Can you classify these men by occupations? A. Yes.

Q. What are they employed at? A. At rolling, feeding, melting; as machinists, blacksmiths, and I suppose the rest of them would be called laborers.

Q. Do you work single or double shift? A. Double shift.

Q. Do the men alternate, or do the night men always work at night and the day men at day? A. They work week about.

Q. Those who work by day, how many hours do they work? A. They work ten hours.

Q. Those who work at night, how do they work? A. They work by the hour; they work 60 hours a week, or 12 hours a night.

Q. Do those who work at night get the same pay as those who work by day? A. Precisely.

Q. And it is made even to them by changing? A. Yes.

Q. What wages do the rollers receive for 60 hours' work? A. The rollers are paid by the ton. In some special sections where they could not make wages by the ton, they are paid \$4 a day.

Q. When they work by the ton do they make \$4 a day? A. Some of them have got as high as five and six dollars a day.

Q. Would that be a fair average for the year? A. No; at a guess, I would say it would be close to \$5.

Q. What would be the average wages of the heaters? A. \$2 when they are paid by the day. They are paid in the same way as the rollers, by the ton.

Q. Do they earn more that way? A. Yes.

Q. What do the melters earn? A. They make \$2.50 a day.

Q. What do you pay machinists? A. From \$1.50 to \$2.

Q. What do blacksmiths get? A. They get about the same.

Q. What do you pay laborers? A. They now get \$1.10 a day. All winter they get a dollar; not all of them.

Q. Do you employ any boys? A. Only ten or a dozen.

Q. Do they learn any branch of the business? A. No; they come as helpers.



Q. Are they in the way of learning any branch? A. Yes.

Q. They can pick it up if they desire? A. Yes.

Q. Do you give pretty continuous employment to your men the year round, or do you close down? A. We have been running steady since we started. We only stop a few weeks for repairs at most.

Q. Is the strength of your force maintained continuously, or are the men laid off for a time? A. They are very seldom laid off, except sometimes when we have an accident, such as the furnaces getting down.

Q. How often do you pay your hands? A. Twice a month.

Q. Is their time made up to the day of payment, or if not, to what previous day is it made up? A. The pay is made up to the 15th of the month, and they are paid on the following Saturday. They are paid on the first Saturday after the 17th, I think.

Q. Do you then pay them in full up to the time to which the pay is made up? A. Yes.

Q. In cash? A. Yes.

Q. Does the company own or keep any stores to supply the men with goods of any description? A. None at all.

Q. You don't supply them with goods of any description? A. Nothing whatever.

Q. Do you make any arrangement by which they can get coal? A. Not at all.

Q. Do you exercise any control as to the manner in which they shall spend their money? A. None whatever.

Q. You don't care where they deal or with whom? A. No.

Q. Does the company own any houses which it rents to the men? A. No.

Q. Have you any system of fines for men who are late? A. Nothing except to keep the time off them.

Q. How late must a man be before you take the time off? A. If he is 15 minutes late we keep off 15 minutes. It is regulated by the time he gets his check in the office.

Q. Are the men pretty steady, so that you can rely on them? A. Yes; we have a good class of men.

Q. Are they mostly Nova Scotians? A. Yes; mostly Nova Scotians.

Q. They have been educated to the work here? A. Yes.

Q. Do they give as good service and are they as intelligent as mechanics from abroad? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know whether any of the men working for you own houses or not? A. Yes; there is quite a number of them, but I do not know just how many.

Q. Do you know whether they have paid for their houses out of their earnings or have they other means? A. I could not say; I never made the enquiry.

Q. Have any of the men invested money in the savings bank or in other ways? A. I don't know; I think so.

Q. Do any of the men own stock in the company? A. Yes; a few; they would be foremen.

Q. Is the stock on the market so that they can buy it if they desire? A. Yes.

Q. Would it give the men increased interest in the works, and would it be beneficial to them if they would buy stock? A. I think it would. I would be glad to see them have an interest as far as I am concerned.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Has there ever been any solicitation to them to purchase stock? A. Not publicly.

Q. Have you ever considered the advisability of profit sharing? A. No.

Q. Do you know of such things being done in the United States or elsewhere? A. Not much; I have heard of it.

Q. The company would have no objection to men working for them buying stock? A. Not the slightest; they would be glad to have them do so.

Q. Have you had garnishee orders served on you? A. Not often; I remember a dozen instances or so.

Q. Do you think it is a fair law? A. I don't think so.

Q. Have you had any men hurt in the works? A. Yes.

Q. Does the company pay them while they are laid up, or does it pay the doctor's bills? A. No.

Q. You have no doctor in connection with the works? A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Have you ever had any strikes at the works? A. Never.

Q. You have had no description of labor troubles? A. None, whatever.

Q. Have there ever been differences of opinion between the company and the men as to the rate of wages? A. Nothing of any consequence that could not be settled by a few words.

Q. If such difference, should arise would you favor their settlement by means of arbitration? A. I think I would as a last resource, but I think I would undertake to settle it myself before it came to arbitration.

Q. If you could not do so, would you favor arbitration? A. Yes.

Q. Would you prefer that the arbitration should be in the form of yourself appointing one arbitrator and the men one and the two so appointed selecting the third, or would you prefer a Government Board? A. I would have to consider the matter. I have never considered it enough to give an opinion.

Q. Have the men a benefit association from which to draw relief in case of sickness? A. Not at present.

Q. Have you any objection to employing men who belong to labor organizations? A. From what I have seen of them I think I would have objections.

Q. Do any of your men belong to labor organizations? A. I don't know.

Q. You have not made it a subject of enquiry? A. No.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Have you imported special men for your work? A. Yes; a few.

Q. Were they men that you could not get in this country? A. Yes.

Q. What about the sanitary arrangements, are they handy? A. Yes.

Q. Are they clean and in proper shape? A. Yes.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. To what time is the next fortnightly payment made up after the one you have mentioned? A. To the end of the month. If the month ends on Tuesday we pay on Saturday. There is just time enough to make it up.

Q. Then all you keep back is the few days intervening? A. Yes.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. In the event of an employé wanting to leave would he get his pay at once, or would he have to wait until pay day? A. He would have to wait until pay day. We have paid money before but we expect two weeks' notice.

Q. When you dismiss a man do you pay him at once? A. Yes; we pay him at once.

Q. Have the wages increased within the past five years? A. We have only been running four years. In 1884 the average wages was \$1.30; now it is \$1.35. That is for every day that is worked.

Q. What would be the age of the youngest boy? A. 10, 12, or 15, I could not say.

Q. Have you any boys of 10 or 12 years of age? A. I don't think so. They are pretty big. We have not much light work for boys.

Q. Before they go to work are any steps taken to ascertain whether they can read or write? A. No.

DANIEL MCKENZIE, foreman steel works, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. You are foreman of the Nova Scotia Steel Works? A. Yes.

Q. You have heard the testimony of Mr. Fraser? A. Part of it.

Q. Are you foreman over the whole establishment or only part of it? A. Only a small department.

Q. What department are you employed in? A. The bolt cutting department.

Q. How many men are under your charge? A. From 6 to 18 or 20.

Q. Are they all skilled men? A. No.

Q. What do skilled hands receive in your department? A. I can't say; some of them get from \$1.25 to \$2.

Q. Are they good workmen? A. Some of them are and some of them are not.

Q. Are they steady men? A. Yes; most of them.

Q. Can you rely on them being there every day? A. Most of them.

Q. How many days in the year does your department run? A. Nearly every day except holidays.

Q. Are the works sometimes shut down for necessary repairs? A. We have hardly time to do repairs.

Q. The orders are pressing on you so? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know any men in your department who own the houses in which they live? A. Yes; many of them. I could hardly say how many.

Q. You know that some do? A. Yes; some do.

Q. Have you heard any of the men express an opinion that it would be better if pay day came more frequently? A. Yes.

Q. Would they rather be paid more frequently? A. Some of them; others would not care if they were not paid until the end of the month.

Q. Have some of them to run accounts because they are not paid more frequently? A. No; I think that some who pay cash would be as able to pay if they were only paid monthly.

Q. Do any of the hands go to the office for advances before pay day? A. I think I have known it to happen once or twice.

Q. Is this in the case of steady men? A. It is not the case with men that are the steadiest.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Have you power to employ and discharge men? A. I sometimes consider that I have power to discharge a man if he does not suit me.

Q. Is he discharged when you say so? A. No; I can only send him out of my department.

Q. Must a man give a fortnight's notice before he leaves? A. There is no rule.

Q. How much notice must the manager give? A. I don't know that he must give any.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you own a house? A. Yes; I have three at present.

Q. Have you built them out of your earnings? A. Mostly.

Q. How many tenements are there in each one? A. Two.

Q. How many rooms are there in each tenement? A. Three or four.

Q. What would each tenement bring a month? A. Three or four dollars.

Q. About what taxes do you pay? A. I hardly recollect the amount. We pay in small amounts. The county tax is in one bill and the school tax in another.

Q. Do you ever work on Sunday? A. No.

Q. Is there any system of fining men for work not done—that is, for inferior work? A. No. If a man cannot work on a job we take him off and put him on a job that he can do.

Q. Do you know how the wages here compare with the wages elsewhere? A. Nothing more than what I hear sometimes.



Q. Is there any society in your works? A. No; there has never been any since I have been in the works.

Q. Do you believe in organizations around such an institution? A. No; I believe if a man is dissatisfied he ought to leave.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Have you ever seen any people who could not leave? A. I think it would be their own fault.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you know any men who have money in the savings bank? A. Yes; there are some. I could not say how many.

Q. Is there any information you could give the Commission other than you have given in answer to the questions asked that might be beneficial? A. I don't know of anything at present.

Q. Is the sanitary condition of the concern all right in relation to water closets and so on? A. I think so, as far as I am a judge.

Q. Are there any small boys employed? A. Not very small.

Q. What would be the age of the youngest? A. I could not say; there might be some as young as 12. That would be the youngest.

Q. Would there be many of them? A. No; I don't think there are more than two of that size in the works.

Q. Their work is not very laborious? A. No; it is running around and picking up light stuff.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Have they to work the same hours as the men? A. Yes.

Q. About what does a lot of land cost here? A. It is usually sold by the lot, from \$50 upwards.

Q. Where would that be? A. It would be outside the corporation; that is outside the town limits.

Q. Outside of that you can get a lot for \$50? A. You can get it cheaper.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. How far from the works? A. About 50 yards.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Are there any apprentices in the works? A. I only know of one.

Q. Is he indentured? A. No; but I think there was an understanding when he came that he was to learn his trade.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Do the boys work 12 hours at night the same as the men? A. They are mostly on the day shifts.

THOMAS MCKAY, roller, Nova Scotia Steel Works, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. You are employed in the Nova Scotia Steel Works? A. Yes.

Q. You are a roller? A. Yes.

Q. How many rollers are employed in the works? A. There are three.

Q. Do you work by the day or by the week or by the piece? A. I work most of the day by the piece, and the rest of the time by the ton.

Q. When you work by the ton what do you earn? A. I earn \$5 and \$6 a day.

Q. What is a fair average day's earnings? A. \$5 I would consider fair.

Q. How many days in the year can you work if you desire to do so? A. For the last two years I could work every day with the exception of one or two weeks.

Q. Out of this \$5 do you pay for any help? A. No; nothing whatever.

Q. The whole sum is your own? A. Yes.

Q. Do you work like the rest 10 hours a day, and 12 hours on the night shift?  
A. Yes; we are not confined strictly to those hours. We are generally off half an hour before the time.

Q. You consider so many heats a day's work? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know the earnings of the heaters? A. \$2 a day. When they work by the ton it is half what the rollers get.

Q. You have no voice in fixing that; it is all done by the management? A. Yes; it is all done by the management.

Q. How long have you been working here? A. I think between four and five years.

Q. Are you a married man? A. No.

Q. You have saved some money, I suppose? A. A little.

Q. Have you any landed property? A. No; I live at home.

Q. Is there any information you could give us that would be of value to workmen? A. I don't know anything that I could say.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Have you worked anywhere else? A. Very little. I worked for two or three months in Providence, R.I.

Q. Would it be a benefit to the men to be paid oftener than they are? A. I don't think so; it would be of more benefit to those who live from hand to mouth.

Q. Have you any stock in the company? A. I have a little preferential stock.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have you any reason for saying that you do not think it would be a benefit to be paid oftener than once a fortnight? A. It is only delaying the payment one week; the stores would not charge any more for running an account two weeks than one, and for those who are not in need of the money it is only the interest for one week, which is a matter of small consequence.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Could not a man do better with the ready cash than on the credit system?  
A. I think he could do much better.

DAVID REYNOLDS, employé forge works, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you work in the steel works? A. No; I work in the forge works.

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a machinist.

Q. Do you work by the day? A. Yes.

Q. What wages do you earn? A. \$2.25 a day.

Q. Do you get constant employment all the year round? A. Yes.

Q. Do other machinists receive the same pay as you get? A. No.

Q. Do you know what they receive? A. All the way from that to \$1.75. I think there are some a little lower. A good machinist gets from \$1.75 to \$2.25.

Q. Are there any boys in the department? A. One.

Q. Is he learning the trade? A. Yes; but he is not there as an apprentice.

Q. Do you know what he gets? A. I don't know.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Have you worked as a machinist elsewhere? A. Yes.

Q. Where have you worked? A. In Massachusetts.

Q. How do the wages here compare with those in Massachusetts? A. They are a little lower.

Q. How do the expenses compare? A. They are much the same in my case.

Q. Does house rent cost more there? A. It is much the same. It would be within 50 cents a month the same as in a town of 20,000.

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. Do you own a house or do you hire one? A. I hire one.

Q. What do you pay a month for it? A. I pay \$5.50.

Q. How many rooms have you? A. I have four rooms.

Q. Do you think weekly payments would be more beneficial than fortnightly payments? A. I don't think so.

Q. What hours do you work? A. I work ten hours.

Q. Has the use of machinery lowered the rate of wages? A. I think not.

Q. What do you think, or have you considered the advisability of purchasing stock? A. Yes; on different occasions.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Is ten hours a fair day's work or is it excessive? A. I would rather see the hours shorter.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Is there any Sunday work? A. There is some. I have not done any for some time.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Would you rather work ten hours at the same rate per hour or eight hours? A. I would rather work ten hours. Money is the object.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have the boys access to the machinery? A. There is only one boy in my department; he is not very young; he is sixteen or seventeen.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Would the remark that money is the object apply to weekly payments? A. No; the only difference is that you would get the money a little sooner, but I don't think that would be a benefit. If a man wants to do a cash business he would have to save a fortnight, and if he was paid weekly he would have to save a week.

Q. He would handle the money oftener? A. He would spend it oftener.

Q. Is that the rule? A. I think so.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Is it not only the rule here? A. I think it is the rule everywhere.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. You would not speak with authority of any city that you have not been in? A. It is not necessary to be in a city to know the state of things. For the same class of men the wages must be about the same.

Q. Do you consider that monthly payments would be as good as fortnightly? A. I consider monthly payments as good as any.

Q. Could you deal as economically in regard to groceries? A. I think so. I don't mean that doing a credit business is as good as cash, but a man might save enough to pay cash.

Q. Could a man with \$1.75 a day and a family do as well? A. I think so, if a man has enough to keep his accounts square.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have there ever been accidents in your foundry? A. There has only been one of consequence since I have been there.

Q. How long ago was that? A. It was from 18 months to two years.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. What was the nature of it? A. A man fell from where the shafting is on to the engine shaft.



Q. Was it really an accident or was it due to carelessness? A. I consider it was an accident. He went up to oil the machinery and tripped on one of the belts.

ALEXANDER REID, employé, Nova Scotia Steel Works, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Where are you employed? A. I am at the Nova Scotia Steel Works.

Q. In what department do you work? A. I am on the mill.

Q. Are there many men employed there? A. There are seven or eight.

Q. Do they work by piece work or by the week? A. They work by the piece and by the hour.

Q. Those who work by time what are their average weekly earnings? A. They differ. They are often on by the hour sometimes, and four or five are on by the piece. Some are always on by the hour.

Q. What is your work? A. Rolling.

Q. Do you work by the ton or by time? A. Both ways.

Q. When you work by the ton what is a fair day's earnings? A. \$3 or \$4.

Q. When you are on time what do you get? A. \$2.

Q. What do the heaters at the roughing mill get? A. I could not say.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you keep house? A. No.

Q. Are you a single man? A. Yes.

Q. Do you board? A. Yes.

Q. What do you pay a week for board? A. \$3.

Q. Have you ever worked anywhere else? A. No; that is not away from home, I have worked on the farm.

Q. Does a man in the mill make as much as he would on the farm if he worked as hard? A. I think he would. He would make more than the farmers are now doing.

Q. What is the sanitary condition of the shop, alright? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any complaint to make? A. No.

Q. Are there any small boys in your department? A. No; not very small.

Q. Do you pay taxes? A. Not in this place.

Q. Do you prefer to be paid weekly or fortnightly? A. It makes no difference to me; I would as soon one as the other.

Q. Would it be a benefit to a man who gets \$1.10 a day to be paid weekly? A. I don't know that it would.

Q. You heard the evidence of the other men? A. I did.

Q. Do you concur in their evidence? A. I do.

Q. Do the men on the finishing mill make more than the men on the roughing mill? A. It is all one; it is merely a different set of rolls. The boss is supposed to be at the finishing roll.

Q. Have you ever considered the advisability of taking stock in the concern? A. No.

Q. You would not care about purchasing any? A. I have never considered it.

Q. Have you ever been asked to take stock? A. No.

Q. Would you take more interest in the concern if you had some stock? A. I would have no more interest as far as my work is concerned.

A. L. MURRAY, employé Nova Scotia Steel Works, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Where are you employed? A. At the Nova Scotia Steel Works.

Q. What is your employment? A. Driving the steam crane.

Q. How many are at that work? A. Two.

Q. What are your wages? A. They are 15 cents an hour.

- Q. Do you take turn about at the night work ? A. Yes.  
 Q. Do you receive the same pay night as day ? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY :—

- Q. Have you any grievances ? A. No.  
 Q. Are you satisfied with your work ? A. Yes.  
 Q. Is there good drinking water in the establishment ? A. Yes.  
 Q. As good as there is about the town here ? A. Yes.  
 Q. Have you any complaints about it ? A. No.  
 Q. Do you own a house ? A. No.  
 Q. Do you rent one ? A. Yes.  
 Q. What do you pay ? A. I prefer not to say. I live with my father-in-law.  
 Q. How many rooms have you ? A. Three or four.  
 Q. Do you think it would be to your advantage to take any stock in the company ? A. I suppose it would be a little.  
 Q. Do you ever work on Sunday ? A. No.  
 Q. Is there any system of fining for not being on hand early in the morning ?  
 A. No.  
 Q. Do you work ten hours a day ? A. Yes.  
 Q. And 12 hours on the night gang ? A. Yes.  
 Q. Have you ever had any strikes in the concern ? A. No.  
 Q. You are perfectly satisfied with your employers ? A. Yes.  
 Q. Do you know whether shares are on the market ? A. No.  
 Q. Do you concur in the evidence of the other witnesses ? A. I do.

BENJAMIN HUMPHREY, heater, Nova Scotia Forge Company, sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

- Q. Where are you employed ? A. At the Nova Scotia Forge Company.  
 Q. What is your occupation ? A. Heating.  
 Q. What do you receive a day ? A. I generally work by the piece.  
 Q. What do you receive ? A. From \$2 to \$3.25 a day.  
 Q. What would be a fair average day's earnings ? A. From \$2.25 to \$2.50.  
 Q. Do you get work constantly all the year around ? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY :—

- Q. Are you a married man ? A. No.  
 Q. Are you single ? A. Yes.  
 Q. Do you board out ? A. No.  
 Q. Do you own land of your own ? A. I have a house.  
 Q. Have you purchased it from your earnings since you have been in the works ?  
 A. Very nearly so.  
 Q. Have you any complaints to make about your employers ? A. Not at all.  
 Q. Are you satisfied with your wages ? A. Yes.  
 Q. Would you care to have them paid oftener ? A. No.  
 Q. Have you any objections to make to the drinking water ? A. No.  
 Q. Is the sanitary condition of the concern all right ? A. Yes.

GEORGE BEATTIE, employé, Nova Scotia Glass Works, sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

- Q. Where are you employed ? A. At the Nova Scotia Glass Works.  
 Q. What is your occupation ? A. Re-heating the glass after it is pressed ?  
 Q. How long have you been working there ? A. Ever since the works were started. Since September, 1881.  
 Q. How old were you when you entered the works ? A. Between 14 and 15.

- Q. What do you earn? A. 80 cents a day.
- Q. Are you learning any part of the business so as to be able to earn more?
- A. I do not know.
- Q. Does your employment change as you get more knowledge of the business?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And you earn more? A. Yes.
- Q. What did you earn at first? A. 42 cents a day.
- Q. Do you expect to reach the highest position in the works? A. No.
- Q. Is there an opportunity for you to become a glass blower? A. There might be.
- Q. Have you learnt pressing glass? A. No.
- Q. Are there many boys at the same work that you are at? A. There are about 8.
- Q. Do they all get the same pay? A. About eight of us get the same.
- Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. From seven to eight and a half hours.
- Q. Do you board with your parents? A. No; they are dead.
- Q. What do you pay for board? A. I board with my aunt and pay anything I like.
- Q. How frequently are you paid your wages? A. Every week.
- Q. Are you paid in full? A. No. The pay week commences on Thursday—two days are kept off.

By Mr. KELLY:—

- Q. Are many small boys employed in the concern; say boys of about 10 years of age? A. There are. I would say about 12. One of 12 and the rest 14.
- Q. Are any boys unable to read and write? A. There are two who cannot.
- Q. Are their fathers living? A. The father of one of them.
- Q. Does he work in the concern? A. Yes.
- Q. Does he make good wages? A. Yes.
- Q. What is the sanitary condition of the building—good? A. Yes.
- Q. Are the closets good? A. Yes.
- Q. Are they kept clean? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you save any money? A. No.
- Q. It takes all you make to keep you? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

- Q. Do you work all the year around? A. No.
- Q. How long are you out of work? A. Generally two months in the summer.

By Mr. KELLY:—

- Q. Do male and female employes have the same water closets? A. No; there are only two or three women.
- Q. Have they separate conveniences? A. Yes.
- Q. The company don't have any store for you to get goods at? A. Not that I know of.

- Q. They don't ask you to buy goods at any particular place? A. No.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

- Q. How are the boys treated by the men with whom they work? A. Pretty good.
- Q. Are they ever kicked? A. Not now.
- Q. Were they ever ill-used? A. They were when the Americans were here.
- Q. Are any of them here now? A. No; not in the factory.

JAMES DAVIDSON, finisher, Nova Scotia Glass Works, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

- Q. You are employed at the glass works? A. Yes.



Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a finisher.

Q. Are there many employed at that? A. We have three.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. Practically 9 hours a day. But we never work that much.

Q. Do you change from day to night work? A. No; we are only at day work, though we have presses on night and day.

Q. What do the finishers earn? A. They earn \$3 a day.

Q. That is the fixed rate? A. Yes; except for beginners—they don't get that much.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Where did you work before you were employed by this concern? A. In England.

Q. Were you brought out specially for this work? A. Yes.

Q. Was a contract made with you on the other side? A. No; we made no contract. If we liked the place well and good, and if not we could go away.

Q. Are there any small boys employed in the concern? A. None very small.

Q. What would the youngest be? A. From 12 to 14 years of age.

Q. Can they read and write? A. I cannot say.

Q. Have you any children working in the concern? A. I have one.

Q. How old is he? A. He is 15 years old.

Q. Can he read and write? A. Yes.

Q. Do you own your house here? A. Yes.

Q. And land attached to it? A. Yes.

Q. What taxes do you pay? A. They differ. If you make improvements the taxes are raised.

Q. Have you worked at the same work in England? A. Yes.

Q. How do the wages compare? A. They are about the same for the same quantity of work.

Q. Could you make \$3 a day there? A. Yes.

Q. Did you work the same number of hours? A. No; we worked on the 8 hour system—8 hours on and 8 hours off—that is generally the method in England. Eight hours are specified but you really don't work more than 5. You have a specified number of articles to make for a day's work.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. You have no complaints to make against the concern? A. No.

Q. You are quite satisfied? A. Yes.

Q. Is the sanitary condition of the concern good in respect to water-closets, &c.? A. Yes.

Q. Have you saved the money you built your house out of since you came to work in this factory? A. Yes.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. How many months do you work in the year? A. We let down about the middle of July and start again the beginning of September. We stop during the hottest months.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. How long have you worked for the concern? A. For 5 years.

Q. How long has your son worked? A. He has just worked a little off and on.

Q. How long have you owned your own house? A. For nearly five years. I got it when I first came here.

JAMES BOND, presser, Nova Scotia Glass Works, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. You are employed at the Nova Scotia Glass Works? A. Yes.

Q. What part of the work do you do? A. I am pressing.

Q. Do you work the same hours as the last witness? A. Yes; we work together.

Q. Do you change from the day shift to night work? A. Not this year.

Q. You are constantly on day work? A. Yes; on day work.

Q. What wages does a pressman receive? A. It varies from two to three dollars.

Q. What would be a fair average? \$2.50.

Q. Do you get constant work? A. Except when the works are closed.

Q. It is pretty hard work is it not? A. It is.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What length of time is the works closed? A. They are closed from six to eight weeks.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. Have you a family? A. Yes.

Q. Have you a property of your own? A. Yes.

Q. Was the house built out of your earnings? A. No.

Q. You had the money before? A. Yes.

Q. How many boys have you under you? A. About 5.

Q. What would be the age of the youngest? A. About 16.

Q. Can all the boys under you read and write? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any objections to make? A. No.

Q. You are perfectly satisfied? A. Yes.

Q. You never have any strikes? A. No.

Q. Is there a society here? A. There is, but I don't belong to it.

WILLIAM GERMAN, employé Nova Scotia Glass Works, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. You are employed in the Nova Scotia Glass Works? A. Yes.

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a chimney maker.

Q. Do you blow chimneys? A. Yes.

Q. Do you work by the piece or by the week? A. I work by the piece.

Q. About what can you earn a day or a week? A. I don't know; I make more one week than another.

Q. When you make a fair average week's earnings, what would it be? A. About \$14.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. We are supposed to work nine hours, but we don't often work that long.

Q. You have a certain number of articles that you consider a day's work. A. Yes.

Q. And when you make that number of articles you quit? A. Yes.

Q. Is glass blowing an unhealthy occupation? A. I have heard it said that it is.

Q. Do you have many men who continue to work at it until they are old? A. I don't know any. I know some middle aged men who say they have been at it all their lives.

Q. And are in good health still? A. Yes.

Q. Are you a married man? A. No.

Q. Are you single? A. Yes.

Q. Do you keep house? A. Yes.

Q. Did you build the house out of your earnings? A. No.

Q. Have you worked in any other glass works than these? A. No.

Q. Have you any boys under you? A. Yes.

Q. How many have you? A. Two.

Q. How old would the youngest of them be ? A. I suppose he would be 13 or 14 years of age.

Q. Can he read and write ? A. I don't think so ; he is a foreigner.

Q. Is he one of the imported hands ? A. Yes.

Q. Are they inclined to learn to read and write ? A. Some of them are.

Q. Is the drinking water satisfactory ? A. It is fair.

Q. Did you ever complain about it ? A. No.

Q. Do none of the men complain about it ? A. Not that I am aware of.

Q. What is the sanitary condition of the shop ? A. It is not the best.

Q. Are the water-closets in good order ? A. Not very good.

Q. Do you ever have men hurt in the concern ? A. No.

Q. Have you ever had any garnishee orders served on you ? A. Not that I know of.

Q. Do you know of any being served on men around the concern ? A. No ; I don't know of them.

Q. Have you any stock in the concern ? A. No.

Q. You never felt like buying any ? A. No.

Q. Do you know of many men in the concern who have saved money and banked it ? A. I know some.

Q. You don't work on Sunday ? A. No.

Q. Are any fines imposed on the men for breaking glass ? A. No ; I don't think so.

JOHN BUSBY, boilermaker, Matheson's foundry, sworn.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. What is your occupation ? A. I am a boilermaker.

Q. How long have you worked at boilermaking ? A. I have worked at it for 16 years.

Q. Have you always been with this concern ? A. No.

Q. You have worked in other places ? A. Yes.

Q. How do the wages compare here with what you got in other places ? A. The wages are the same in Halifax as here.

Q. What do you consider a fair day's wages ? A. I consider \$1.87 fair for New Glasgow.

Q. How many hours a day do you work ? A. I work ten hours.

Q. Are you a married man ? A. Yes.

Q. Have you a house of your own ? A. It soon will be.

Q. What does a lot of land cost measuring 50 feet by 100 ? A. I don't know.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. What is the size of your lot ? A. I don't know the exact size.

Q. What did it cost you ? A. It cost \$100 cash.

Q. Did you save the money while you have been employed here ? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any general complaints to make in relation to the concern where you work ? A. Not that I know of.

Q. How often are you paid ? A. I am paid fortnightly.

Q. Have you any desire to be paid more frequently ? A. No.

Q. Would not money paid weekly be of any benefit to you ? A. It would make no difference to me.

Q. Is the cost of living here and in Halifax different ? A. I see no difference.

Q. Are they both the same ? A. Yes.

JAMES SINCLAIR, blacksmith, Matheson's foundry, sworn.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. What are you employed at ? A. I am a blacksmith.



- Q. How long have you worked at the trade? A. I have worked at it for 14 years.
- Q. Have you worked at other places besides here? A. No.
- Q. What number of hours per day do you work? A. I work 10 hours a day.
- Q. Do you work by the day or by piece work? A. I work by the day.
- Q. What is the usual pay given to men at blacksmithing? A. There is only myself—I get \$2.
- Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.
- Q. Have you property of your own? A. Yes.
- Q. Did you build it out of your earnings since you have been employed in the concern? A. Yes.
- Q. Have you any complaints against the concern you work for? A. None whatever.

ROBERT GRAHAM, machinist, sworn:

By Mr. KELLY:—

- Q. What are you employed at? A. I am a machinist.
- Q. How long have you worked as a machinist? A. For 18 years.
- Q. Have you worked at any other place? A. I have.
- Q. Where have you worked besides here? A. I have worked in Truro and in Providence, Rhode Island.
- Q. About what does a machinist get here; what is the usual pay? A. I don't know; I get \$10 a week.
- Q. What would it be in Providence? A. \$2.40 to \$2.75 a day according to the shop; \$3 in some places.
- Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.
- Q. Have you a family? A. Yes.
- Q. Had you a family in the United States? A. Yes.
- Q. How do the expenses of living in the two places compare? A. I don't know; house rent may be higher in the States. If I was a single man I would be there to-morrow.
- Q. How many hours do you work? A. I work ten on an average; 50 hours a week.
- Q. Do you have any accidents in the concern? A. Nothing serious that I know of.
- Q. Are you satisfied with your employment? A. I am.
- Q. Have you any objections to make? A. No.
- Q. Have any strikes ever taken place in the concern? A. Not to my knowledge.
- Q. How does the cost of living here compare with the cost in Truro? A. I am not prepared to say.
- Q. How does the rate of wages compare? A. I get more here.

ROBERT FRASER, machinist, sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

- Q. What are you employed at? A. I am a machinist.
- Q. How long have you been employed as a machinist? A. I have worked at it for 20 years.
- Q. Have you worked in any other town? A. No.
- Q. Have you always worked for Matheson's foundry? A. No; I have worked for Mr. Matheson for about 19 years.
- Q. About what is the average pay of a machinist here? A. About \$10 a week.
- Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.
- Q. Have you property of your own? A. Yes.

Q. Did you earn the money while you were in the employ of this concern? A. No; I had it before. I built a house since I was with Mr. Matheson.

Q. Your wages do not more than keep you? A. No.

Q. Do you know that you could earn more in any other place? A. I suppose if I was as young as I used to be I could, but now I best stay where I am.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you ever work at night? A. Not much.

Q. Do you get more when you work at night? A. Yes; a time and a half.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Are there any small boys in your concern? A. No.

Q. How is the sanitary condition of the concern; are the water closets good and clean? A. Yes.

Q. Is the drinking water all right? A. Yes.

Q. Do you ever employ any foreign labor? A. No.

Q. There are no men imported from abroad? A. No.

Q. Do you work any time on Sunday? A. No.

Q. Is there any system of fines for insufficient work? A. No.

Q. You never considered the necessity of purchasing any stock in the company? A. No.

Q. You get paid how often? A. Every fortnight.

Q. Would it be an advantage to you to be paid oftener? A. I don't think it.

JOHN FRASER, employé Nova Scotia Steel Works, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. You are employed at the Nova Scotia Steel Works? A. Yes.

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a melter.

Q. You are in charge of the melting furnaces? A. Yes.

Q. What wages do you earn? A. I earn from \$3.10 to \$3.25 a day.

Q. How many men have you under you? A. I have about 25.

Q. What would they work at? A. They would all work in connection with the furnaces—there are four gasmen making gas.

Q. What are their wages? A. The man under me makes \$2.25 a day or 25 cents an hour; the others make from 15 to 18 cents an hour and the gasmen get 12½ cents an hour.

Q. How long would the gas producers work? A. They are going right along.

Q. How long do the men work who are employed on them? A. They work from 7 o'clock in the morning until 6. The night men then come on and they are on until 7 o'clock in the morning.

Q. Do any of the men in your department own houses? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know how many of them do? A. I think there are only two.

Q. Do any of them own stock in the company? A. I don't think.

Q. Are the hours fixed in conference with the men or so as to be as satisfactory to them as possible? A. Some one must be there all the time.

Q. Do the day hands put in as many hours as the night hands? A. They have 60 hours a week. The night hands have 5 hours every Monday morning every second week.

Q. You are paid as frequently as the other hands? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How is the sanitary condition of the concern? A. It is pretty fair.

Q. Have you no complaints to make? A. No.

Q. Did you ever take into consideration the propriety of buying stock in the company? A. No; I never thought of it.

Q. Have you ever heard the men consider the advisability of doing so? A. No.

WHIDDEN GRAHAM, clerk in grocery store, sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a clerk in a grocery store.

Q. How long have you been a clerk? A. For six years.

Q. Have you ever worked at anything else? A. I was one year in the glass factory.

Q. Has there been any improvement in the men since the institution was started? A. In one respect, in the character of the men employed, that is skilled workmen there has, but so far as the general workmen are concerned I cannot say that there has been a marked improvement. The greater part of the workmen employed are men who have been born or brought up on farms.

Q. Do you think that if the concern allowed the men employed a certain amount of profit it would be a benefit to the concern and to the men? A. No; I don't think so.

Q. Do you know of child labor being employed in the factories? A. I do. It is a subject that I have taken a large amount of interest in, and I can testify that quite a number are employed who cannot read or write. There are children of from 13 to 14 years and some occasionally from 11 to 12.

Q. Have you called the attention of the school trustees to it? A. Yes; we have a compulsory law on the subject of education but it is optional whether to enforce it or not.

Q. Have you called the attention of the parents to it? A. I have, and they are able to educate the children if they wish to, but they are careless.

Q. There is no contract system here? A. None whatever. In reference to the subject of weekly payments, I don't think that would be of the slightest benefit. I don't charge any more for my goods and some of my poorest customers are among the men who are paid weekly. I have been in stores in different places and that is my experience. The only difference is that the men go on a drunk once a week instead of once a fortnight.

Q. Do many of the men own houses? A. Yes; many do. They are commencing now. The great drawback is the price that the lots are generally held at. The prices of lots would be from seventy five to one hundred dollars.

Q. The assessors in going around, would they assess all the frontage the same? A. No; a property worth eight or ten thousand dollars is assessed at eight or ten hundred. When the assessors increase the assessment it is generally on the man who paints his house and not on the man who is holding his property for sale. I might say that I think there should be some system by which men who are sent to gaol should be made to work.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. What kind of work? A. Any kind of work—selling groceries if you like.

Q. Would you like to see people who are put in gaol working in competition with free men? A. Yes; I would; because the free men have to support them. The class of immigrants that come here as a general thing brought out by the Government is often of a poor type. They are uneducated. The people here have a spirit of independence about them but the foreigners do not care for that.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Do you know of such people being brought out by the Government? A. I know of some. There was a person, an Italian who said he was a farm laborer, and a considerable portion of his passage was paid out.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Do you see the majority of immigrants come here? A. I have seen the Bohemians.

Q. Do you speak of the Dominion or only of this town? A. I only speak of this town, but I have talked with a gentleman who came across in a steamer with immigrants and lived with them.



Q. Would that gentleman be in the cabin or in the steerage? A. In the cabin.

Q. Would he have an opportunity then of finding out the class of people that they were? A. Yes; the gentleman I speak of made it his business to do so.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How is the sanitary condition of the factories? A. In some points it might be improved. The drinking water is only fair, and in hot seasons it is not very good. The water closets are not at all in the condition that they should be.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. You said that if men were paid weekly that they would be liable to get drunk? A. I spoke of the men who drink.

Q. Could they get whiskey on credit? A. No; it is a cash article here. The three enemies of the working men here are poverty, ignorance and drink.

Q. Is that the exception or the rule here? A. I think it is the exception. In reference to the garnishment of wages I think the workmen should have the first lien on their wages.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. If you trust a workman to the extent of \$50, and he does not get employment right off you can compel him to pay it at any future time? A. I believe in abolishing all laws for the collection of debts. I intended to start a labor organization here but I finally considered that there would be no benefit from it and I abandoned the idea.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Have you ever been a member of a labor organization? A. No.

Q. Not having been a member of such an organization, you don't know what benefits there would be except from hearsay? A. That is all.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. What is your opinion of the garnishee process? A. I think it should be abolished. I think it would be better to do away altogether with the credit system, as it is pernicious.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Do you think the men should be paid up to the hour they work? A. No; it would give the book-keepers extra work. As far as child labour is concerned, I think there should be a law prohibiting the employment of children under the age of 12. And I think some reference to the subject of land and taxation, by the Commission would be beneficial. I think that lands held for speculative purposes should be assessed, so that men could get lots to build houses on.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What is your opinion in reference to the education of children before they are placed in factories? A. I think they should be educated. The principal reason why there has been no jarring or strikes here is because the employers are men who have worked up from the ranks, and know how to treat their men. They pay them all they can. If all employers acted as they do there would be no need of strikes. Many of the men belong to the Oddfellows and get benefits from that society. There is no more Sunday labor here than can be done without. There is only sufficient to keep the furnaces running.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. The employers who have worked themselves up would not ask their hands to work 365 days in the year, would they? A. The Nova Scotia Glass Factory ran with three shifts and the men since the fire agreed to work 12 hours instead of 8 to get a little more money. If the other men had the choice they would do it too.

Q. Perhaps they had not any religion? A. When it is a choice between small wages and feeding a family, men are apt to put away their religion. A man earning six or seven dollars a week has no money to invest. In some of the concerns there are no shares, and besides I think the men get more profitable investments outside. The works are not very remunerative.

Q. If men took stock would it not be beneficial? A. I believe it would. A man earning good wages should be able to save \$1,000; but the men who earn good wages are not the ones who strike. It is the poor man who cannot get more. In reference to weekly payments I think any attempt to interfere with the rights of the employer in that respect would be nonsense. If the men don't like the way they are paid they can leave.

By Mr. KERWIN:—

Q. Then the workmen have no rights? A. Not as against any other class. I don't believe in class legislation, and I think what there is should be abolished.

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JAMES BOWMAN, employé Nova Scotia Steel Works, sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. You have heard the evidence given this evening? A. I have.

Q. What concern are you engaged in? A. In the Nova Scotia Steel Works.

Q. In what department? A. As a heater.

Q. Do you concur in the evidence you have heard? A. I do.

Q. Have you any complaints to make against your employers? A. None whatever.

Q. Have you ever worked outside of New Glasgow? A. No.

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NORTH SYDNEY MINES, C.B., 21st April, 1888.

RICHARD LOCKMAN, checker, North Sydney Mines, sworn.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. What is your business in connection with the mines? A. I am a checkman.

Q. You are employed by the miners and paid by them? A. Yes.

Q. Your business is to record the weight of coal as it comes from the mine? A. No; I look on while the other man records it.

Q. Are you paid by the day? A. No; I am paid so much by each man.

Q. You do not live in the company's house? A. No.

Q. The company pays you nothing at all? A. No.

Q. They do not provide you with a house? A. No.

Q. Not with a house or coal or anything. A. No.

Q. How long have you been employed in this position? A. For about six years.

Q. Give us a general idea of your duties; what do they consist of? A. I am hired by the men to look after their interests. I serve them with their tools and look after the coal that comes from the mine. I am paid by the men to look after their rights.

Q. In case of coal coming up and being weighed and not being clean, what do you do in that case? A. If the coal is not clean, that is if there is stone or dirt in it, the company take off half a ton of coal to the tub.

Q. What does a box of coal weigh? A. From 1,200 to 1,800; sometimes it may weigh 1,900 to 2,000.

Q. Who is the judge in case the coal may be bad? A. There is no judge but the company's man, the topman.

Q. Have you no voice at all? A. I have a little sometimes. Sometimes he may give way to me.

Q. How much is deducted from the weight of the box? A. 1,000 pounds. If the box weighs 1,300 or 1,400 pounds the company takes 1,000.

Q. Is it the rule among the men to allow that to be done? It has been the rule since I have been there. They have spoken against it a good deal.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Is all the coal weighed as it comes from the mine? A. Yes; every box that comes up is weighed. In the winter the coal is riddled, the clean is weighed and the slack is not.

Q. What rule is there to determine the weight of stone in the box before the coal is forfeited? A. It is just the rule of the company.

Q. How do they decide it? A. If they get so much dirt in the box they take half a ton.

Q. How much dirt must there be in the box before they do that? A. If there is 8 or 10 pounds they will take it. In the winter season the coal is riddled in the mine. There is supposed to be 200 pounds of slack in it and if there is more the company will take half a ton.

Q. When stone comes up in the summer do they weigh it to find out how much there is in the box? No; it goes on the screen and is received in a hopper or wagon and if the company's man sees stone go into the wagon he checks the tub, that is if there is much; if it is just a little he will not mind it.

Q. Can they pick it out? A. Yes; generally.

Q. Do they actually weigh the stone, or does the company's man just check the tub if he thinks there is so much; how does he find out how much stone there is in the tub? A. It is just as he thinks.

Q. Did you ever see a box forfeited when you thought there was not enough stone in it to cause it to be forfeited? A. I have sometimes seen it.

Q. Do they pay attention to your protests when you make them? A. Sometimes they do, but very seldom.

Q. You do the best you can for the men? A. Yes; sometimes a few tubs may be checked when I am not there. If a tub was very bad I would not argue against it.

Q. I suppose you have no special knowledge what goes on underground? A. No; I once worked in a mine.

Q. Can you tell us about how much coal is forfeited from a man in the course of a month or in the course of a year? A. Sometimes a man in the course of a month would lose a ton of coal. A pair of men working together sometimes lose two tons and sometimes two tons and a half. They would not lose more than two tons and a half. Some men do not lose any.

Q. Two tons and a half would be the outside? A. Yes; that would be the most. Sometimes they lose three or four tons, but very seldom.

Q. And some men, you say, do not lose any? A. Some men would not lose more than a tub in a year. Where there is a fall of the roof it is hard to keep clear of stone sometimes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Who appoints you? A. The miners.

Q. If you and the company's man differ what is the consequence? A. Sometimes he listens to me, and sometimes he does not.

Q. Are the men aware that you protest against the forfeiture of tubs? A. Yes.

Q. And don't they make demands to the company? A. Yes; they protest sometimes.

Q. What is the answer? A. Anything that is the rule of the company they go by.

Q. Then the miners have no rights; while they appoint you they might as well not appoint you? A. I send in a report to them and they go to the manager about it.

Q. Are you a married man? A. No.

Q. Have you a property that you occupy? A. Yes.



Q. Do you hire a tenement? A. Yes.

Q. What rent do you pay? A. \$2.50 a month.

Q. How many rooms have you? A. I have several small rooms.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What do you pay for coal? A. I pay 67 cents a load. That is 50 cents to the company and 17 cents for hauling it.

Q. You pay just what the public pay? A. Yes.

Q. Do you get the run of the mine for 50 cents a load? A. No; I get better than that. I get nut coal for 50 cents.

Q. Have you heard the men complain of the lights not being good enough to enable them to distinguish between coal and stone? A. Yes, I have reported that. In the mine a man can hardly see. In the summer the stone would be thrown in with the shovel and the men could not see it.

Q. If it was large he could see it? A. Yes; but if there is a bad roof it sometimes falls.

Q. The men timber the roof? A. Yes.

Q. Then if it falls is not that their fault? A. No.

Q. The cleanness of coal depends on the shoveller does it not? A. No; it depends on the roof; sometimes the roof comes down and gets mixed with the coal. In the north side mine the roof is mostly hard.

Q. Would it not be possible to have the stone picked out at the cost of the miners so as to avoid having the coal forfeited? A. No.

Q. It is necessary to have some system of checking so that miners will not send up too much bad coal; the miners consider that necessary do they not? A. Yes.

Q. Could not a system be devised so that the miners would not lose so much coal? A. Yes; if coal came up with stone in it so much might be taken for that stone.

Q. Is your house fairly comfortable? A. Not very comfortable.

Q. Does it keep the weather out very well? A. Parts of it do, and parts of it do not.

Q. Do you know anything about the company's houses? A. Not much; it is 26 years since I lived in them.

Q. What school tax do you pay here? A. I pay here about \$1.13 a year. I am not a freeholder.

Q. What other taxes are there? A. There are county, poor, and road taxes. Those are about all the taxes here.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What is the whole amount of your taxes? A. \$2.50 or thereabouts.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Have you good drinking water here? Yes; very good in the part of the mine where I live.

Q. How deep do you sink your wells? A. From 18 to 20 feet.

Q. How near are the wells to the company's houses? A. They are very close in some parts and in others they are a good piece away.

Q. Are these wells far enough from the houses so that surface drainage would not run into them? A. Most of them are. Some of the wells are 50, 60 or 100 yards away.

Q. Have you diphtheria here frequently? A. We have not had it for 12 months.

Q. Have you had any typhoid fever? A. No.

Q. Does the company pay a doctor? A. Yes; the men pay so much a month.

Q. Have the men a voice in saying who the doctor shall be? A. No.

Q. What is the sum that each man pays? A. A man with a family pays 40 cents a month.

Q. What does a single man pay? A. I think it is 25 cents a month.

Q. Do the boys pay anything? A. Yes; but I do not know from what age.

Q. Is there any extra fee for the doctor in lying in cases? A. Yes.

Q. What does he charge in such cases? A. It is \$4.

Q. Do the men ever object to any of these charges? A. I don't know.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Does the doctor give medicine as well as advice? A. Yes; he gives all medicine.

Q. The money for the doctor is deducted from the monthly pay? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. Is there any charge for the minister? A. Yes; that is a voluntary subscription.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. When you are working in the mine do you think, according to your best belief, that the men took all proper precautions not to send up stone? A. Some men would, but I don't think others would.

Q. Would it not be to their interest to do so? A. Yes; it would be to their interest, certainly.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Are the mines entered by shafts or by slopes? A. They are entered by shafts.

Q. Are there travelling roads in the mine? A. No; only where the trips run.

Q. Are the tools supplied to the men at the bottom? A. No; they take them down with them.

Q. Do they go down in cages? A. Yes; there is a shaft for that purpose.

Q. Is the cage carefully secured against accidents? A. Yes.

Q. Is the tackle inspected? A. Yes; it is inspected almost every morning.

Q. Have any accidents occurred in going up or down? A. Not of late years.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. Whose duty is it to inspect the ropes? A. The company has an inspector for that purpose.

JOHN McNEIL, miner, sworn.

By Mr. HAGGARTY :—

Q. What is your occupation, Mr. McNeil? A. Coal digging.

Q. How are you paid? A. I am paid 33 cents a ton in the winter, and 43 and 41 cents in the summer season.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Are all the coal cutters paid by the ton? A. In narrow places they are paid by the yard and by the ton.

Q. In picking out pillars how are they paid? A. We have no pillar work here now.

Q. Is the price the same in all parts of the mine? A. Under four feet eight there is five cents allowed on the ton.

Q. Is the coal of the same hardness throughout the mine? A. No.

Q. Where it is hard you do not get extra? A. No.

Q. Is the distance from the shaft about the same to all coal cutters? A. No; parts of the mine are farther away.

Q. What is the greatest distance from the shaft? A. I think a mile and a quarter, but I am not sure.

Q. Is there much gas in the mine? A. No; there is not much at present.

Q. Are you able to use open lamps at the faces? A. Yes.

- Q. Do inspectors go into the workings every morning to see if there is any gas? A. Deputies go in before the miners every morning.
- Q. Do they do their work carefully? A. Yes.
- Q. Is the ventilation of the mine good? A. Yes; very good.
- Q. There is plenty of good fresh air to keep the gas out? A. Yes.
- Q. How many men as a rule work at one breast? A. Two.
- Q. Two coal cutters? A. Yes.
- Q. Do they employ loaders? A. No; they fill their own coal.
- Q. Would you rather work on that system? A. Yes.
- Q. Is that made by the company or by the men? A. It has always been the rule here.
- Q. At all events the men are satisfied with it? A. Yes.
- Q. How frequently are you paid? A. We are paid once a month.
- Q. Does that carry the men over to the next pay day, so that they have cash in hand, or do they generally run accounts? A. They generally run accounts.
- Q. Does the company own a store? A. Yes.
- Q. Do the men generally deal at the company's store or at other stores? A. They generally deal at the company's store.
- Q. Are they at liberty to deal at other stores if they wish? A. Yes.
- Q. When the force is reduced would the men who do not deal at the company's store be dismissed first? A. I don't know.
- Q. Do you think the men are under the impression that they get as good value at the company's store as at others? A. I think they are all pretty much alike.
- Q. If you had money in your pocket would you as soon go to the company's store as anywhere else? A. I don't know that I would get better bargains elsewhere, but I might go to other stores.
- Q. Is there any difference made, when men are laid off, in keeping on men who are indebted at the store; are the men who are in debt at the store kept on while others are laid off? A. I don't think.
- Q. Do you think a man who is indebted at the store will get as good value when he orders goods as another man who comes to the same store with the ready money? A. I think the man who comes with the ready money gets better value.
- Q. You have not heard of any men who were dismissed or reprimanded because they did not deal at the company's store? A. I don't know of any.
- Q. How many hours a day as a rule do you work when you have a full day? A. Very often 9, 10, 11 or 12 hours.
- Q. Do you frequently work as long as 12 hours? A. Not often. It may be 8 hours sometimes.
- Q. When you go down into the mine in the morning do any officials tell you how long you shall stay? A. No; it is all left to myself.
- Q. Do you quit work when you have sufficient coal cut? A. I quit as I think proper.
- Q. Just as you feel? A. Yes.
- Q. How long have you been working in this mine? A. I have been working here for twelve years.
- Q. About how much time have you worked in the course of each year? A. I never lost much time while the mine was working.
- Q. How long has the mine been at work. A. I worked full time about eight months.
- Q. And during the rest you worked about half time? A. Yes.
- Q. Are you an average hand? A. Yes.
- Q. What do you think is a fair day's earnings for yourself, taking one day with another? A. In the summer season \$1.77 to \$1.80, and in the winter season \$1.30 or \$1.40.
- Q. Why do you earn less in the winter season than in summer? A. There is a difference in the price. In the winter we have to riddle our coal, and we do not riddle it in the summer.



Q. Can you earn \$1.50 every day you work in the winter? A. I don't think so.  
 Q. About what do you earn, taking all the year round? A. I think from \$300 to \$400.

Q. That would be your year's earnings? A. Yes; I would not earn that clear.

Q. What would come out of that? A. There would be \$80 or \$90.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What would that be for? A. For powder, oil and house rent.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you pay for lamps? A. Yes.

Q. Do you pay for sharpening tools? A. No; the company pays for that.

Q. You pay for powder, oil, doctor and municipal taxes; anything else? A. We pay for our picks.

Q. But not for sharpening them? A. No; not for sharpening them.

Q. That would be all that would be deducted from your pay, except house rent?  
 A. That would be all, I think.

Q. Do you live in a company's house? A. Yes.

Q. How many rooms do you occupy? A. I occupy three rooms.

Q. How much rent do you pay? A. I pay \$1.60 a month.

Q. About what is the size of those rooms? A. Two of them are seven feet one way and eight feet the other. The kitchen is 15 feet square.

Q. Are there no sleeping rooms above? A. Some of them have them, but I have not.

Q. About what are the ages of the youngest children you know to be working in the mine? A. I think they go to work from 12 years of age upwards.

Q. You don't think there are any under that? A. Not that I know of.

Q. Are they put at the doors? A. Generally.

Q. What are they put at afterwards? A. At helping the drivers.

Q. Then they get to be drivers themselves? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know what wages they get? A. I think they begin at 30 cents.

Q. When they help the drivers what wages do they get? A. I think it is five cents advance.

Q. When they are drivers what do they get? A. I think it is from 60 to 85 cents.

Q. How do they learn to become coal cutters? A. They generally go in with a man who knows how to cut coal.

Q. Does he get paid for teaching them? A. No.

Q. How long does it take a boy to learn to become an expert coal cutter? A. Not long if he is strong.

Q. I suppose he would have to be well grown? A. Pretty well grown.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Do you know of others who live in the same kind of houses that you do who get them for less? A. No; not where I live.

Q. Do you know of any person who pays less than \$1.60 a month? A. No.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you belong to the Miners' Association? A. Yes.

Q. Are there any benefits attached? A. No; there is a benefit society besides that.

Q. Do you have to pay any taxes here? A. Yes; we pay poor, county and school rates.

Q. It costs you how much? A. I think the school rate this year is \$1.25, and the poor and county rates the same. Road work is a dollar a year.

Q. That would be about \$3.50 altogether? A. Yes.

Q. You said that the men had to furnish their own picks and other necessary tools? A. No; they get all the rest, except the picks, free.

- Q. What is the charge made for the picks? A. \$2.50 for the set.  
 Q. What is a set? A. Three picks and one handle.  
 Q. How do you pay the doctor? A. We pay 40 cents a month.  
 Q. Have the men any voice in the appointment of the doctor? A. No; I don't know much about the doctor's rules.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

- Q. Are the houses all provided with water closets? A. Yes.  
 Q. Does the company provide them in all cases? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

- Q. How do you find the water? A. There is very good water on the place.  
 Q. Is there quite a number of tenants who take water from the same well? A. Yes; a good many.  
 Q. How far would the wells be from the water closets? A. They would be a good piece away.  
 Q. What would you call a good piece? A. The nearest would be 100 yards or more away.  
 Q. There would be no possibility of drainage getting in? A. No.  
 Q. Is there any dissatisfaction between the company and the men as to the manner of conducting the affairs of the mine? A. I don't hear of any just now.  
 Q. You have worked in other mines? A. I have.  
 Q. How does the amount men are paid per ton compare with other mines? A. I think they are pretty much alike.  
 Q. Is all the precaution that is necessary against accident taken by the overseers? A. Yes.  
 Q. You think they are very diligent in that respect? A. I think so.  
 Q. Have you any children? A. Yes; I have five.  
 Q. Are any of them working in the mine? A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

- Q. Have there been any accidents from gas in this mine? A. There were some time ago.  
 Q. How long ago? A. I think ten years ago, this summer.  
 Q. Do you think you get full tally for all the coal you send up? A. I think so.  
 Q. Have you frequently had coal confiscated because of stone in it? A. I have lost an odd tub.  
 Q. How many have you lost in a year? A. Not more than a couple of tubs in the past year.  
 Q. You are pretty careful? A. Yes.  
 Q. Does the roof often come down? A. It does in some places.  
 Q. When it does are you able to pick out the stone and throw it to one side? A. Sometimes.  
 Q. Is it easy to pick it out? A. There is a kind of black stone that it is hard to pick out.  
 Q. Is there any slate in the roof? A. There is in some places.  
 Q. Can you tell it easily from the coal? A. Yes.  
 Q. Do you hear the miners frequently complain that their coal is confiscated when they think it is clean enough? A. Some of them grumble.  
 Q. Do you lose much coal in the winter through having too much slack in it? A. No; I think I only lost one tub this winter.  
 Q. You can easily distinguish that? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

- Q. Do you know if the men around your place are sufficiently careful about that? A. They are all pretty careful as far as I know.  
 Q. Would the men as a body prefer fortnightly payments to monthly payments? A. As far as I know that would be their wish.

Q. Have they ever made representations to that effect? A. I think so.

Q. What was the answer? A. I forget.

Q. That was sometime since? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do any of the miners own houses of their own? A. Very few. Some of them do.

Q. If a man wishes to build a house for himself, has he any difficulty in getting land to build it on? A. I don't think the company sells any land, or not very often, but he could often get it outside.

Q. How near to the mine could he get it? A. There is some land near the mine and some a good distance away.

Q. What would a lot of 50 feet by 150 cost? A. I don't know.

Q. Do any of the miners put money in the savings bank? A. Very few of them.

Q. Is it your opinion that most of them have any money ahead? A. Not many of them. There may be an odd one who has not a family to keep who has a little money.

Q. In the winter season do they run in debt? A. There is not as much of that this winter as there used to be.

Q. Do many miners leave here for other districts? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Where do they go? A. To British Columbia, and to other places.

Q. Do you hear from them? A. Yes; some come back.

Q. For what reason do they come back? A. From having no work.

Q. Have they expressed any opinion whether they were better off than the rest? A. They would be, but they could get no work.

R. H. BROWN, manager, Sydney mines, sworn.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. What number of men have you employed? A. About 604 now, men and boys.

Q. How many boys have you? A. I can't say from memory, but I have a memorandum here.

Q. Please refer to it? A. Underground we have 284 men and 162 boys. A great many of the boys are working as men. On the surface we have 132 men and 36 boys, making a total of 604. There are 406 underground and 198 on the surface.

Q. What is the age of the youngest boy? A. We don't allow any to go underground under 12 years of age.

Q. Is there any standard of education? A. No.

Q. There is no law on the Statute book about that? A. No; we pay a large school tax and it is their own fault if they don't avail themselves of it.

Q. Is there any such law in any other country? A. I don't think so.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. When a boy asks for employment do you ask whether he knows how to read and write? A. No; none come to us but what are raised on the place, and they are all supposed to be at school.

Q. Is the employment generally asked for by the parents? A. Yes.

Q. Do you ask about the age? A. If a small child asks for employment the overman would ask about his age. I have never known him to do so.

Q. How long have you been connected with the mines? A. I have been manager since 1864.

Q. Are you a practical miner? A. I never cut coal.



Q. Has the company a store in connection with the mines? A. We have.

Q. Do you ever discriminate between the men who deal there and those who do not? A. No; the men are free to deal with us or not. As a matter of fact half of the men do not deal with us.

Q. How often do you pay them? A. Monthly.

Q. Do you pay in cash? A. We pay cash to those to whom the cash is coming.

Q. Have the men ever complained about not being paid oftener? A. I can't say. Some five or six years ago, I think, the men spoke to the secretary who comes out from England on the subject, but I could not say positively.

Q. You have a number of houses which belongs to the company? A. Yes; we have 290 houses.

Q. About what is the cost of each tenement? A. They must have cost \$450 a piece, I should say.

Q. About what would you charge a month for a tenement? A. Just according to the value of the house. We charge all the way from 50 cents a month to \$2.50. We have some large new houses built within a few years which are \$2.55 a month.

Q. How many rooms are there in them? A. There are seven rooms. They are 2-story houses. The old houses have only lofts upstairs.

Q. The company appoint a man on the bank to see to the quality of the coal that comes up? A. Yes.

Q. If I understand aright the Miners' Association appoint another? A. No; we weigh the coal and they have a check weigher.

Q. I understand that they have no voice as to whether a box should be thrown away or not? A. The check weigher usually comes forward; he looks after everything connected with the men's interests.

Q. Have the men who have been docked protested against it? A. I think the winter before last a committee came to me with the complaint that the coal had been checked. It happened that that day I had been down and had seen the coal coming up myself. I saw very bad coal coming up and I told the committee that it must be checked; that it was against their interests as well as ours to send up such coal; we would not be able to sell it. In reference to the slack coal I may say that the men do not lose the slack that is riddled out; they get 15 cents a ton for it and 33 or 34 cents a ton for the large coal.

Q. What is the average pay made by a miner who is a steady man and fair coal cutter? A. If you will allow me I will take first an extraordinarily good man and then a fair man. I did not take an average, but a fair man last year worked 237 days. Each cutter cut 973<sup>3</sup>/<sub>16</sub> tons in that year, and the gross earnings were \$434.70.

Q. What was it a ton? A. There are two or three prices. Of course powder and oil go against the coal. That averages \$36.20 for the year. That makes the net earnings \$1.68 per day. They must have earned \$200 in the summer. I know that these men were good men.

Q. Do you know any men who have saved money? A. I know that some of them have money in the savings bank.

Q. Do you know any of the men who have built houses of their own? A. There are some.

Q. Have any of the men built houses on the company's land? A. We have sold 90 acres of land about a mile and a half from here. We let a man have from 10 to 40 acres. They buy that and build houses. We sell it at \$16 an acre. We have also sold land nearer to town.

Q. Do any of the miners have houses of their own close to the works? A. Yes; there are houses close to the pits, but they are not on our land.

Q. None of the men have houses on the company's land except that far out? A. Yes; some of them pay us \$4 a year rent.

Q. What sized lot of land would that be? A. That is just for the land the house stands on. Some of them have other land.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Suppose the company should want the land for any other purpose? A. That is understood; but we would not take it from them to give it to other men. We would only take it for mining purposes. Some of the men have no lease.

Q. Is it discretionary with the company then to close the arrangement? A. Certainly; but the men are satisfied. There are a score of families in houses where there is no lease. They pay so much a year rent for the land and know that we will not take it.

Q. Give us an idea of the amount of coal taken from any one man during the year for sending up bad coal, or the average of the loss? A. It is very trifling per man. Perhaps it would be 20 or 30 tubs a month for the whole colliery, and we raise 1,200 tubs a day. We do not check the whole tub. If a tub is 1,300 pounds we take 1,200.

Q. If the men use every precaution is there enough light to show them whether any stone is going in? A. There is all the light you can get. They use the naked lamp.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you work with the naked lamp in all the workings? A. Yes; there are three pits, one for the men to go down, one for pumping and one for raising coal.

Q. The earnings of the men you have given are not average earnings? A. No; They are the earnings of ten good men.

Q. Can you give the average earnings of all the miners? A. I did not look that up.

Q. Would it be possible to give it? A. Yes.

Q. Can you distinguish men from boys? A. No; a boy may earn as good wages as a man. A boy of 18 is as good as a man of 50.

Q. What do the trappers get? A. Fifty cents a day.

Q. What do the drivers get? A. They get from 50 to 85 cents a day.

Q. In giving the average earnings of the miners would it be possible to separate the boys wholly from the actual miners? A. Yes.

Q. Does the company contribute to any relief or benefit fund for miners who have met with accidents or are sick? A. Yes; since the first of the year they have commenced. The workmen got up a family society last November and asked the company to contribute to it. The company has given \$20 a month towards it, commencing with the first of the year.

Q. That does not depend upon the amount the miners contribute? A. No.

Q. Does the company pay taxes? A. Yes; we pay the town of North Sidney \$491.40. In our own district we pay county rates, \$4,468.80; school rates, \$1,596; statute labor, \$158.45. That is a total of \$6,714.65. That we paid last year.

Q. Have there been any strikes at this mine of late years? A. Yes; there was a strike in 1876.

Q. How was that strike settled? A. It was settled by the men returning to work at the same terms as they knocked off.

Q. They struck for an advance? A. Yes.

Q. Have there been any changes in the wages since 1876? A. Yes; there has been an increase once or twice, and there was a small reduction in 1884.

Q. How do the present rates compare with the rates of 1876? A. I think they are a little better. There was an increase and a reduction, but the reduction was not as much as the increase.

Q. Do the men frequently send deputations to confer with you? A. No; not frequently.

Q. Do you receive them and treat with them when they do come? A. Yes; I always receive them in person.

Q. Do you ever keep a list of the members of the deputations or do you black list them? A. No; certainly not.



Q. If they come to you with their grievances do you consider that they are only doing what they have a right to do? A. Yes.

Q. You make no distinction as regards the men who come? A. No; none whatever,

Q. In case of differences arising would you favor arbitration as a means of settlement? A. It would depend on what it was. I don't believe in compulsory arbitration such as that passed by the Local Legislature. It would make agitation a livelihood to some persons.

Q. Would unskilled men be able to understand a mining dispute so as to arbitrate intelligently in reference to it? A. No man who knew nothing about mining could arbitrate as to a matter of work; he might settle a question of wages.

Q. You think the disputes should be settled by men who understand the details? A. Yes; I think they can be settled by the men and the owners. Strikes are not satisfactory to either party.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. You spoke of a reduction in 1884. Would it be a fair question to ask you under what circumstances you would consider a reduction necessary? Were there any particular circumstances that warranted the reduction in that case? A. The circumstances were that we could not get the price for our coal. The price obtained in competition with others is so low that we could not make anything.

Q. That was the only reason? A. That was the only reason. Every year the prices were getting lower and the secretary told the men that the reduction was an actual necessity.

Q. Has your output increased? A. Yes; it has increased the last few years.

Q. Has it been a steady increase? A. No; not very steady; last year was an exceptionally good year.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. You do not favor a board of arbitration. Would not a board composed of one member appointed by the company, one by the miners, the third being a judge of the Supreme Court, be a good board? A. Yes; I think that would give all the arbitration any one could wish for.

Q. You never consulted the Miners' Association in respect to the Bill passed by the Local Legislature? A. No; they did not come to consult me.

Q. You protested against the Bill going through? A. Yes.

Q. Should you not have had the co-operation of the Miners' Association in regard to that Bill? A. I looked on it as their Bill.

Q. What are the general habits of the men, are they sober, steady and industrious? A. A great many are as good as any men of the class and some are not so.

Q. Do you think the men here are as sober and steady as men of the same class elsewhere? A. I think we have as good a body of men here as there is anywhere. A great deal of the drunkenness that may exist is due to the temptations held out. There are too many rum shops in the neighborhood. The only cure for very bad cases is to discharge the men, but that does no good to them. The proper cure, I think, would be to prevent the sale of liquor within two miles of a mine. There was such a law at one time, but it became a dead letter. The Commission would do a great benefit to the community if they drew attention to that matter. There are men in the mines who have money in the bank and are comfortably off, while there are others who have the same wages who have no money and are in debt. Their money goes into the pockets of the rum sellers and enables them to buy farms and build houses. If there was a law that no rum should be sold within two miles of a mine it would be a great advantage.

Q. Have you imported any miners? A. No.

Q. Do many miners come here from foreign countries? A. No; very few. The great majority of our men are born here.



Q. Are your own people equal or superior to foreigners? A. They are as good as any I have seen come here.

Q. Do they compare favorably with those who came here from abroad? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Your association loads vessels at the wharf? A. Yes.

Q. Suppose a sailing vessel is loading and has 50 tons on board and a steamer comes in do you discriminate between the two? A. Yes; when steamers arrive we stop the sailing vessels. That is the universal practice over the whole world. Go where you will sailing vessels must give way to steamers. We did not make the rule.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Is that the rule when both are colliers? A. Yes; the steamer could not be run unless she could get coal immediately.

Q. Suppose a sailing vessel has two-thirds of her cargo in? A. She must move just the same. I have known vessels here to have to move twice.

Q. Is she moved on the authority of the company? Q. Yes; on the authority of the company; the wharf is ours and we make them move.

Q. You have entire control of the vessel at the wharf? A. Yes; we give them all their turns within these limits. They get their turns according to the time of their arrival, but steamers always get precedence of sailing vessels in the same way.

Q. What was the output last year? A. The output for 1887 was 176,204 tons.

Q. What is the average price per ton at the wharf? A. I cannot say. We get all sorts of prices. We have to compete. In the Upper Provinces we have to contend with very low prices. We get better prices here.

Q. Do you charge the miners for their coal? A. No; we only charge for hauling it. We give them the coal free. They used 5,800 tons last year.

Q. You charge them for the picks they use? A. Yes; they are patent English picks that we imported.

Q. Do you charge them simply what the picks cost? A. There is little over the actual cost for expenses. We charge nothing for sharpening the picks. In England and the United States the men pay for sharpening.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Have you any other information affecting the men that you can give the Commission in relation to their social, moral or material condition? A. We have ten schools at the mine, with an average attendance of 490 children.

Q. What is the whole population? A. From 2,900 to 3,000.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Did you ever know the overseers to beat or kick the boys employed in the mine? A. I never knew it for a fact. Before my time there was a man who it is said did it.

Q. If you knew of its being done and a protest was made to you would you have an investigation? A. Certainly.

Q. You have had no such charges made? A. No.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Would it be an advantage to the men to have fortnightly payments? A. I do not think it would. There are men who get drunk regularly every pay night—that is once a month. These men would get drunk once a fortnight if they were paid in that way. The sober men do not need it.

Q. How many men get drunk on pay day? A. I cannot say; but there are lots of complaints.

Q. Would it entail any extra labor to pay the men fortnightly? A. Yes; it would entail considerable extra labor. It takes considerable time to make up the books; and to pay fortnightly would simply make double labor.

Q. Are you aware of mines in this province that pay their men fortnightly?  
A. I am not aware of it. If a man comes to the office any time and asks for an advance, he gets it. We have no hard and fast rule.

Q. Are there any fines imposed for misdemeanors of any kind? A. No.

Q. Are there any fines of any kind? A. Yes; the rooms in the pit must be driven to certain dimensions—sixteen feet by six,—and when it goes up to seventeen feet or over, a man is fined a cent a ton while he is driving it. The reason is that there would be danger of the pit falling.

Q. What becomes of the fines? A. Nothing. The tonnage goes into the books that much less.

Q. Are there fines for men leaving before their working time is up? A. A man would be checked a quarter of a day if he left early. I do not know that it ever occurs. Men do not usually leave. Men are allowed to go whenever their day's work is done.

Q. Have fines ever been imposed for damage to machinery? A. There have been fines imposed for damage to horses. We have made them pay one-half the value of a horse where it has been killed.

Q. How is that decided? A. By myself. If I am satisfied that it is the boy's fault that the horse has been killed, he has to pay.

Q. There is no appeal? A. I have offered to take the case before the magistrate, but they have declined.

Q. How many hours do engine drivers work? A. 12 hours.

Q. Would it not be an advantage for them to work 8 hours? A. No; there has never been an accident in consequence of a man working 12 hours, to show that it is too long.

Q. Then you will not take the precaution until something does happen? A. Why should we?

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. How long does it take to send the men down or up? A. It takes one hour and a half.

Q. Do the men lose this time? A. No; they keep arriving and the cage lowers them down. In the afternoon they are going up from 3 o'clock until 6, so that they do not have to wait.

Q. Is there any rule regulating that? A. Only the rule that only a certain number of men are allowed to go in the cage at one time, and if there are more they have to wait their turn. Whenever there are four men waiting, that being the number the cage holds, the cage starts.

Q. Do the men travel on the same plane as the engines? A. Yes.

Q. Have there been any accidents in consequence of that? A. Yes.

Q. Is there any remedy for it? A. Yes; we have man-holes every 20 yards.

Q. A man must be able to reach the man-hole? A. It is only a few steps.

Q. Would it be possible to have lamps hung? A. No; every man has his own lamp. They can keep clear if they wish.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. What about electric lights? A. In England they are trying to introduce them. They have one now, I believe, that weighs about seven and three-quarter pounds.

Q. How long will it burn? A. I do not know. It has not been brought to perfection yet.

Q. Would the company avail themselves of any opportunity of that kind? A. There is no necessity for it. They would cost a guinea a piece and that is out of the question.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. You have a doctor attached to the works. Have the men any choice as to his appointment? A. No.

Q. What fee is charged to a man with a family? A. 40 cents a month for a man with a family; and 25 cents for a single man.

Q. How much is charged for a boy? A. I think 25 cents, but I am not quite sure of that.

Q. Suppose a man has several sons who work in the mine would each of them pay 25 cents? A. Yes; after they are 16 years of age.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. You think a boy of 12 years of age would not pay? A. I think if he pays at all it would be something under 25 cents.

Q. Has the Miners' Association ever asked to be consulted as to the appointment of a doctor? A. It is not a matter that takes place very often. There has only been one doctor since I came here. He talked of going away at one time and the men got up a large list asking that we should keep him.

Q. If a vacancy occur would you consult the men as to the appointment of his successor? A. I would not like to say. No vacancy is likely to occur.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. You say the cost of each tenement would be \$450? A. Yes; or perhaps \$470.

Q. Are you assessed at their full value for the houses? A. I think so; we are assessed a lump sum for all our property. This mine is assessed at least three times its value as compared with other mines.

Q. Is there any remedy for that? A. I have talked to the county council about it; but there are assessors in each district and each does it as he thinks best.

Q. Do you know the rate of assessment? A. I think it was 75 cents a thousand.

MEMO. supplied by Mr. Brown.

1887.	No. of Colliers.	Days Cutting Coal.	Days at Shiftwork.	Total Days Worked.	Amount.
					\$ cts.
January.....	212	3,314	81½	3,395½	4,121 60
February.....	213	1,826½	67½	1,894	2,419 77
March.....	216	4,196½	40½	4,237½	5,470 78
April.....	220	2,286½	225	2,511½	3,332 71
May.....	218	5,093	168½	5,261½	7,994 99
June.....	229	4,934½	205½	5,140½	7,941 12
July.....	230	5,120½	160½	5,281	8,289 82
August.....	228	5,023	232	5,255	7,855 98
September.....	218	4,846	272½	5,120½	7,899 38
October.....	217	4,801	217½	5,018½	7,790 10
November.....	217	4,093½	125½	4,219	6,570 79
December.....	204	1,414½	80½	1,495½	2,490 99
		46,951½	1,877½	48,828½	72,178 03

(Signed) GENERAL MINING ASSOCIATION (LIMITED.)

R. H. BROWN, Agent.

JOHN PECK, coal cutter, sworn and examined.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a coal cutter.

Q. How long have you been coal cutting? A. From 19 years.

Q. Have you ever worked in any other mine than here? A. Yes.



- Q. Where else have you worked? A. In the Victoria mine.
- Q. How do wages there compare with here? A. The wages were better than here when I was there.
- Q. Are you a married man? A. I am.
- Q. Have you a family? A. I have.
- Q. Do you live in one of the company's houses? A. No; I have a house of my own.
- Q. Was it with your earnings that you built it? A. I earned the money or most of it on the other side.
- Q. Do you pay taxes? A. Yes.
- Q. How much do you pay? A. I pay \$4.24 taxes.
- Q. What is the value of your property? A. I could not rightly say.
- Q. Did you buy the land from the company? A. No; I bought it from another man.
- Q. How many rooms are contained in the houses? A. There are two, three and so on.
- Q. Do they take you down the mine? A. Yes.
- Q. Have you ever had any trouble with the amount of coal taken off you for dirt? A. Sometimes I have.
- Q. Did you ever raise objections to the company? A. I have raised them to the officials.
- Q. Do you belong to the Miners' Association? A. Yes.
- Q. Are there any benefits attached to it? A. Yes; to the benefit society.
- Q. You never went directly to the manager with your complaint in reference to the coal deducted? A. No; I went to the over-man and to our check weigher. About two months ago I worked 12 days and I was checked 5 tubs and one half ton was taken out of each tub—that was a day's pay taken away.
- Q. What are your earnings per month? A. I suppose \$25 or \$26 for a full month. It might be more if I worked harder. From \$12 to \$15, or \$16 or \$20 is the usual pay.
- Q. How about the summer? A. It is different then. If you have a good place you can make more.
- Q. What do you call more? A. \$40 in some places, and from \$30 to \$35 in others.
- Q. You never kept an account of what you earned for the year? A. No.
- Q. Have you any children? A. Yes.
- Q. Are there any of them working in the mine? A. No; there are none in the mine.

By Mr. FREED:—

- Q. Are you satisfied with monthly pay? A. No; I would sooner have fortnightly pay.
- Q. What advantage would there be in that? A. I would always be able to buy for cash.
- Q. Would that be better than running an account? A. Yes; any one would be able to do better for cash.
- Q. Would you get better value at the company's store for cash? A. I could not say; I don't deal there.
- Q. Would it be better at the other stores? A. Yes.
- Q. Would the men be satisfied if they got what is called a sub-pay in the middle of the month? A. I dare say some would.
- Q. You are perfectly free to deal at the company's store or not? A. Yes.
- Q. It makes no difference as to the time you get work or anything of that kind? A. No.
- Q. If the men have any grievances are they safe in going to the manager to lay them before him? A. Yes.

Q. They are not afraid of being black listed or getting into disfavor? A. No.

Q. They have confidence that he will consider their statements? A. Yes; sometimes there will be dissatisfaction as to the terms.

Q. Is there a general feeling among the men that you would rather have fortnightly pay? A. Yes; I am sure of that. I have talked to a good many about it.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you think with a sober man it would not be possible for him to get money enough together to be a month ahead, and to be independent? A. It would be according to circumstances, and would depend on what family he would have.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are there many men who get drunk on pay day? A. There are a few.

Q. In proportion to the whole body of miners are there many? A. No; not a great many.

Q. If they had fortnightly pay would they get drunk fortnightly? A. Some of them would, but others would do better.

Q. Should the sober men suffer for the offences of a few? A. I don't think. In my opinion the fortnightly pay would make a good many sober men.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Is there any objection to paying the fee to the doctor? A. I don't think so; there is not with me.

Q. I suppose there is a special charge for lying-in? A. Yes.

Q. What is the fee for that? A. \$4.

Q. Do they give all the medicine that is necessary? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any complaint to make or any information to give the Commission that would be for the general benefit of the men? A. There is one thing about the coal—I think most of the men would like to be paid for everything they fill in the tub, and then let the company deduct what they like.

Q. Has the Miners' Association ever presented the case that way to the management? A. I think they have.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. If the men put a lot of stone in the company cannot pick it out? A. We fill the tub from the pick, and a tub of 1,800 or 1,900 pounds would come to the bank. There is a rule for deducting the slack and paying for the round coal, but we are not satisfied with it. We would sooner be paid for all that goes into the tub. At present we get something for the round coal, but nothing for the slack. If you send up a tub and there is 300 pounds of round coal and 800 pounds of slack, you are only paid for the round.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Who is the judge of the quantity of slack coal in the tub? A. It is weighed. There is a machine under the screen called a Billy Fair Play that the slack runs down into.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Suppose you send up 2,000 pounds of coal and there are 500 pounds of slack in it, do you never get any money for the slack? A. No; there is no allowance for that.

Q. You are only credited with 1,500 pounds of coal instead of 2,000 pounds? A. Yes; we would rather be paid for the whole thing.

Q. Do you mean at a reduced rate? A. I suppose it would have to be at a reduced rate, but we want to be paid for all that goes into the tub.

ALEXANDER McLELLAN, miner, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a miner.

Q. How long have you been working for this company? A. I have been here now going on 25 years.

Q. Have you worked in any other mine? A. Yes.

Q. Where else have you worked? A. I have worked at the Block House mine, the Caledonia Mine, the Little Glace Bay and the Reserve mines.

Q. Have you ever worked in any mine outside of Nova Scotia? A. No, sir.

Q. Are you able to tell us about what were your earnings last year, or did you work all the year? A. I worked all the time I could get.

Q. Well, what did you earn? A. I earned something over \$300. That is the total.

Q. The total after paying for your powder and other things? A. No; they would have to come out of that.

Q. Then you did not have \$300? A. No; something over \$200.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have you any idea how many days you worked for the \$.00? A. I could not exactly say; as far as I can say it was about eight or nine months.

Q. About what time do you go into the mine in the morning as a rule? A. Between five and six o'clock. I generally go about five o'clock.

Q. What time do you leave as a rule in the evenings? A. I leave at three or four o'clock, and sometimes later.

Q. How is that regulated—can you leave when you please? A. Yes; you can leave when you please.

Q. Do you cut so much coal or do you leave when you are tired? A. I leave when I am tired.

Q. Have you lost much coal on account of the slack? A. No; not a great deal.

Q. Have you lost much on account of the stone or slate in it? A. No; I could not say that I have lost a great deal.

Q. Would you rather have a lower price and have all your coal weighed? A. Yes; that is if I got all I cut.

Q. If you left all the slack in the mine and sent nothing but lump coal up, would the company like it? A. No.

Q. What do they do with the slack? A. I could not say what they use it for. They use some for fuel for the houses for the men, and some for the engines.

Q. Does any of it lie there and go to waste? A. No; not that I know of.

Q. It is pretty nearly all used? A. Yes; except sometimes it takes fire through lying too long.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. Have you a family? A. Yes.

Q. Are any of the members of your family working in the mine? A. Yes; two of them.

Q. How old are they? A. One of them is 19, and the other 15.

Q. Do you pay towards the doctor? A. Yes.

Q. Do the boys pay as well? A. One of them pays.

Q. What is the sum charged? A. The head of a family pays 40 cents a month, and if he has boys of sixteen years of age they pay 25 cents.

Q. Do you live in one of the company's houses? A. Yes.

Q. How many rooms have you? A. I have two rooms and a kitchen.

Q. What do you pay a month? A. I pay \$1.60. There is a little reduction in the winter season for three months; then I think it is \$1.35.

Q. Are any other fees kept off you than for the doctor? A. No.



Q. Is there any trouble in the pit in getting coal away? A. No; I have had no trouble in getting my coal away.

Q. You never have any difficulty? A. No.

Q. When you work by the cubic yard what do you get? A. I never work by the yard.

Q. Do you never take the coal out that way? A. No; not here.

Q. How do the rates per ton compare with the rates in other mines? A. Well, the rate we are paid per ton here does not go as high as when I was paid by the yard.

Q. Were the rules elsewhere as strict about slack as they are here? A. No.

Q. Were they as strict about forfeiting coal when it was sent up with slate or rock in it? A. I did not find them so.

Q. You were more liberally treated? A. Yes; so far as the checking part of it was concerned.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Are there any other fines on persons working in the mines besides checking? A. No; not unless they overstep the Government laws by going over width.

Q. Are they fined for that or is there a reduction on the ton? A. There is a reduction on the ton.

Q. Is that fair? A. I could not say.

Q. Has any remonstrance been made against it? A. Not that I know of.

Q. It is understood that if they overstep the limits they will be fined? A. Yes.

Q. And the miners are satisfied? A. Yes.

Q. Can you over-drive without knowing it? A. Yes.

Q. In that case how would a man be treated? A. I suppose if you showed the manager how it happened he would forgive you.

Q. Would you prefer fortnightly payments to monthly payments? A. Yes.

Q. What advantages would you derive? A. A man would have his money in hand to buy where he could buy the cheapest.

Q. If he had the money could he purchase cheaper than by running a monthly account? A. I think so.

Q. The men have not endeavored to obtain fortnightly payments of late? A. Not that I am aware of.

Q. Have you a separate travelling way in the mine other than the one the engine runs on? A. No.

Q. You have to travel on the main road on which the engine hauls the trips? A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever known any accidents to happen there? A. Yes; there was an accident a year or two ago.

Q. Was it a fatal accident? A. Yes.

Q. Of course an inquest was held? A. I suppose it was through their own neglect.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Was that the verdict of the inquest? A. I could not say.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Do you know whether the jury recommended that a separate travelling way be provided? A. I could not answer that question.

Q. The men have never asked for a separate travelling way? A. Not that I know of.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Did I not understand from the manager that there was such a way? A. There is such a way to travel, but I don't know that we were ever requested to take that way.

Q. Is it easily travelled? A. I have not travelled it.

Q. Is it passable at all? A. It must be.

Q. Is the roof of it safe? A. Yes; it is as safe as any other part.

Q. Why do the men not take it then? A. I suppose it is left to their own wish.

Q. They do not run into danger without reason do they? A. There is no danger; there are man holes that we can go into.

Q. Can you see the cars coming? A. No; but we can hear them.

Q. Does not the cable in the shafts make a good deal of noise? A. Yes.

Q. Can you distinguish between the noise of the cable and that of the cars? A. Yes.

Q. So that if a man is careful he can save himself? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you buy goods at the company's store? A. Sometimes I do.

Q. Do they ever put you on an allowance of so much a month? A. Yes; they did when I was dealing there.

Q. Who gave you instructions how much you were to take per month? A. The man who had charge.

Q. If you were earning \$20 or \$25 a month would he tell you you could only have \$12 or \$14 worth of goods? A. Yes; if I was in debt.

Q. If you were not in debt would he give you goods up the full amount that you were earning? A. Yes.

Q. You would rather be paid fortnightly than have any contract system? A. Yes; but I am not compelled to deal there.

Q. The company do not discriminate between a person who deals there and one who deals outside? A. I don't think so.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Can you get as good value there as elsewhere with cash in hand? A. I have always found that I could buy cheaper with cash in hand.

Q. When you cut coal too wide what is the reduction per ton? A. It is not by the ton; it is by the foot. If you are a foot wide there is a cent taken off the ton. I have never been fined myself.

Q. You consider it a proper regulation that you should be restricted? A. Of course there should be a restriction. If there was not some restriction some men would go over the bounds altogether.

Q. And that would make it dangerous? A. Certainly.

By Mr. HAGGARTY:—

Q. Do you live in a company's house? A. Yes.

Q. Is it well supplied with outhouses or have you to supply them yourself? A. It is the same as the rest. If I applied to the manager he would give me everything that was necessary.

Q. Are all the houses provided with necessary outhouses? A. I could not say.

Q. In the place where you are living, are they? A. Yes.

Q. Is there a health inspector who visits them annually or semi-annually? A. Yes; I think there is.

Q. Of course they are properly attended to, then? A. Yes; as far as I know.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are repairs made to houses when necessary? A. Yes.

Q. They are kept in fairly good repair are they? A. Yes.

Q. I suppose there are no sewers from the houses? A. No.

Q. Are the slops thrown in the back yard? A. Yes.

Q. Have these a bad smell in summer? A. No; the houses are built a good distance apart.

Q. Are the slops thrown near the wells? A. Not where I live.

Q. You think the well water is pure? A. I think so.

Q. Have you had diphtheria in your neighborhood? A. Not lately. It was there a good while back.

CORNELIUS DONAHOE, co-operative storekeeper, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I run a co-operative store at the Sidney Mines.

Q. Is the stock in the store owned by the miners themselves? A. Yes.

Q. Altogether so or only partly? A. Altogether.

Q. How long has this store been in operation? A. About 21 years nearly.

Q. What class of goods do you keep? A. Dry goods and groceries.

Q. Do you do a large trade? A. No.

Q. Only a small trade? A. Yes; only a small trade.

Q. Do you sell goods cheaper than other stores sell like goods? A. No.

Q. Do you sell at about the same prices? A. Yes.

Q. Has the store yielded large profits to the stockholders? A. At times very good.

Q. Do you do a cash business wholly, or do you give credit? A. It is equal to cash, because we only take as shareholders those who put in a considerable amount, sufficient to cover their dealings for a month or more. While they have capital sufficient to cover what they draw they are all right.

Q. Do you sell goods to others than stockholders? A. Yes; for cash.

Q. Outside the stockholders, you do not sell except for cash? A. No; except an odd person I may trust a dollar or two.

Q. May any one become a shareholder? A. We are a little careful about taking in persons.

Q. You would not allow a person to take stock unless he was steady and of good character. A. No.

Q. If a man has such a character, may any one who wishes to become a stockholder do so? A. Yes.

Q. Then your stock is unlimited? A. To a certain extent.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Is your stock not limited in any way? A. According to the Act of Parliament we can only have \$40,000.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Have you a special Act? A. No.

Q. What is the smallest amount you take? A. We would take \$10.

Q. And would you only advance goods to the amount of \$10. A. That would be all, in the case of a suspicious character.

Q. How would it be in the case of an honest man? A. That would be in the discretion of the directors.

Q. You have been connected with the miners for a long time? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know of any men who have saved money from their labors in the mine? A. Not many.

Q. You have known some? A. Yes; certainly.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are you agent for the Dominion Government Savings Bank here? A. Yes.

Q. How long have you held that position? A. Since July, 1883.

Q. Do all the miners who deposit money here deposit with you? A. I think most likely they do.

Q. How near this place is the nearest agent of the Post Office Savings Bank? A. About two miles and a half or thereabouts.

Q. That is in North Sydney? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any objection to state the total deposit with you at the present time? A. It is about \$70,000.

Q. Are you able to form an estimate of the proportion of that sum deposited by miners? A. No.



Q. Can you give us any idea at all whether half or three-quarters of it is deposited by miners? A. No; not by miners. Of course there is money deposited by miners of fifty years standing in the country, but I don't know whether they made it by mining or not. They may have made it by speculation or otherwise.

Q. You cannot form an estimate then of the proportion of the \$70,000 that belongs to miners? A. Well, possibly \$7,000 or \$8,000.

Q. Who are the persons who principally deposit with you? A. Well, there are a number of farmers.

Q. You think the farmers are your principal depositors? A. Yes; I think so.

Q. And your opinion is that of all the \$70,000 not more than \$7,000 or \$8,000 is deposited by miners? A. I don't think so.

Q. Is drinking on the increase among the miners; is there more drinking among them now than there was ten years ago? A. No; I don't think so; I think when the miners made \$2 or \$2.50 a day there was more drinking than there is now.

Q. Do you think that fortnightly pay would be a benefit to the miners? A. Well, if they can earn sufficient to support themselves with constant employment it would, but if they could not I am kind of doubtful about it. That is if they had to depend solely on the cash and there would be no credit.

Q. Do you think the drinking habits of the people would increase if the pay were fortnightly instead of monthly? A. I don't think so; I think they would probably be inclined to work steadier.

Q. On pay day are there many who indulge in strong drink and lose their time? A. I think there are quite a number of young fellows.

Q. There would not be a majority of them? A. No; I think there is quite a number.

Q. Has the cost of living increased or decreased here within ten years? A. It has decreased.

Q. Tell us particularly in reference to what articles? A. Well, I think flour and tea and sugar are less. Certain lines of dry goods are less also.

Q. Have you any idea to suggest to the Commission that might be of benefit to all concerned? A. I don't know that I have any information to offer that would be of advantage.

ROBERT ROBSON, underground manager Sydney Mines, sworn.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Will you state what your occupation is? A. I am underground manager of Sydney Mines.

Q. Give us an idea of the duties in connection with your position? A. It is to look after the working of the pit.

Q. To see that it is properly ventilated? A. Yes.

Q. You have complete control of that department? A. Yes. When any alteration is suggested I mention it to the manager before any change is made.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How many men work in the pit over which you have control? A. There are 222 coal cutters and 190 men and boys.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How long have you been connected with the mine? A. Since I was 12 years old.

Q. You were a practical coal cutter? A. Yes.

Q. You have worked in this country? A. Yes.

Q. Have you worked at coal cutting? A. No; I never cut coal here.

Q. You have cut coal in the old country? A. Yes.

Q. Give us an idea of the rate of wages and the cost of living here and in the old country? A. It is cheaper to live in the old country.

Q. It is cheaper in proportion to the wages? A. Yes.

Q. Are the wages in the old country better than they are here? A. I have seen coal cut at eleven pence per ton at home, and I have seen it cut at two shillings and sixpence.

Q. Then it fluctuates? A. There is a great deal of difference in the seams between hard and soft coal.

Q. You have charge of the men and boys underground? A. Yes.

Q. Boys that do not do their work, are they ever beaten or kicked? A. No.

Q. You never put your hands on them? A. No.

Q. Do you report to the manager if they are guilty of misconduct? A. Generally, if they do anything serious.

Q. Do you live in one of the company's houses? A. Yes.

Q. Do they pay you once a month? A. Yes.

Q. Would it be a benefit to the men to be paid oftener? A. I am sure I don't know. I could not say. It would be no benefit to me.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is the condition of the travelling road the men may take if they choose? A. It is the return air course.

Q. Is there a good travelling road there? A. Yes.

Q. Is it a reasonably straight road? A. It is not as the engine road; it is a little further and the distance to travel is greater.

Q. Is the path good? A. Yes.

Q. Is the roof good? A. Yes.

Q. Why don't the men take that road then? A. Because it is the furthest.

Q. Is that the only reason? A. It is the only reason that I know of.

Q. What would be the difference in the distance? A. It would be three or four hundred yards as far as I can guess.

Q. Are accidents of any kind frequent in the mine? A. No; we have been pretty free from accidents.

Q. Can you tell us how long it is since there has been a fatal accident? A. We had one last year.

Q. What was the cause of it? A. A fall of the roof.

Q. Are accidents from that cause frequent? A. No.

Q. I mean accidents fatal or otherwise? A. Not particularly. I have been in places where there have been a good many more.

Q. Can men guard against such accidents if they are careful? A. In many cases they can.

Q. If a man is injured from a cause over which he has no control, does the company give him any assistance during the time he is laid up? A. I could not say.

Q. Do you know of accidents by men being run over by the cars while going along the main road? A. Yes; there was one last year.

Q. Was it fatal? A. No, it was not fatal.

Q. Does the company require men to send up all the slack they make? A. Yes; generally.

Q. Would it be safe if they left it in the mine? A. No; it would not be safe.

Q. Is it not necessary for men to get rid of so much slack that they are sometimes fined? A. Not that I am aware of.

Q. Does the company sell or use all the slack that is sent up? A. I could not say how they dispose of it.

Q. Would it not be more satisfactory to pay the men for all the slack sent up, slack and round together, even if the price were lower? A. We have a Billy Fair-play which takes the slack out and they get paid for it in summer, but in the winter it is all banked.

Q. How much do they get for the slack in the summer? A. I could not say; I have nothing to do with the prices.

Q. If the company uses the slack would it not be fair to pay the men for all the coal sent up even at a reduced rate? A. I could not say.

Q. Then could not the company pay such and such a rate for lump coal and such and such a rate for slack? A. They could if they wished.

Q. Would not that be more fair to the men? A. I could not say.

Q. Have you ever been instructed to discriminate between men who deal in the company's store and those who deal outside? A. No.

Q. Or between men who live in the company's houses and those who live outside? A. No.

Q. Have you ever had men put on the blacklist? A. No; there is no blacklist here. I never heard of it, anyway.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. You have nothing to do with the regulation of wages? A. No.

Q. Not of the cutters or of any person employed in the mine? A. No.

Q. Your business is simply to see that the men work properly? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. I suppose the habits of the men are equal to those of men of a similar class elsewhere? A. Yes; I cannot say that they are a bad class of men.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. The deputies that you leave in the mine, do they report to you? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What would become of the slack if the men sent up all round coal? A. It might cause a fire.

Q. What would be done with it if they did not send it up? A. They do send it up.

Q. They say they do not get paid for it? A. I cannot help that.

Q. Do you know of accidents having occurred from deputies going through the mine with naked lamps instead of with safety lamps? A. No; not with deputies.

Q. Have persons left in charge of the mine at night done that? A. No.

Q. The men who travel the engine road do so at their own risk? A. Yes; the company comply with the Act by having man-holes every 20 yards, and the man-holes are there.

Q. If a man becomes injured through no fault of his own, is there any law that he shall be paid any sum or provided for in any way? A. No.

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R. H. BROWN, manager, re-called.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. The Commissioners are desirous of having an explanation from some authorized person about this slack coal that comes up among the round coal. Will you explain the position of the matter? A. We have two systems of paying the men. In the summer the men cut the coal and fill it from the pick, without riddling it, and when it comes to the bank the tub is weighed. Then it is emptied into the screen and there is a weight which weighs the slack which goes through the screen. As it goes through the screen the slack is weighed by Billy Fairplay and that is deducted from the weight of the two together as previously taken. The man is then credited with the large coal at a price that pays him for both large and slack. The price was settled with the men in 1876.

Q. Then though the slack is taken away the man is allowed a price for the other which pays him for both? A. Yes; but there is this distinction, a good collier who makes only a small quantity of slack can make better wages than a man who makes a large amount. In the summer a man gets 43 cents for round. Suppose a tub comes up that weighs 1,500 pounds, and the screen takes 200 pounds of slack out of it; he gets 43 cents a ton for the round coal and nothing for the



slack. In the winter he riddles out the slack and gets 33 cents for the large coal and 15 cents for the slack. In the winter he sends them up separately and in the summer he sends up both together.

Q. Then you adopt the system to encourage a man to make as little slack as possible? A. Yes. It is to the interest of the men to make the coal as large as possible.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. About what size is considered slack? A. What goes through the screen. There are three-eighths of an inch openings, and about 20 per cent. goes through.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Suppose a man is injured through no fault of his own, is there any law that he shall be provided for in any way? A. No; but every man in the mine has a copy of the colliery laws, the Government laws, and our laws also. In reference to man holes the law requires man-holes every 20 yards and that is all the provision you have to make.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How long is it since you adopted the system of keeping a store? A. I cannot recollect what year it was.

Q. It was not until a long time after the works were commenced? A. It was in 1878 or 1879.

Q. Is the company benefited by keeping a store? A. I presume they are to a certain extent.

Q. Is it the intention of the company and the management to give the goods as cheaply as they can? A. Yes; the idea was to give the goods at fair prices. It was found before we started that the merchants got short of flour in the spring, and every year they advanced their prices very much in the spring. We commenced with flour and meal, and the result was that every one in the country got flour \$2 cheaper in the spring than they otherwise would because there could be no corner in flour while we had a large supply at the regular price. Hundreds of country people used to come to get our flour and they said it was a good job that we had it. People not connected with the colliery were benefited in this way. We finally got other goods as well, but it was not thought wise to sell cheaper than other stores; we thought it would not be fair. Although we have the store our people are not obliged to deal there; they can do so or not as they please. If we gave up the store to-morrow you would soon see the price of flour advance in the spring.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. You carry a heavy stock of it? A. Yes; the smallest merchants cannot keep large stocks, and those who hold large stocks, if there is no competition can put the price up.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. You sometimes limit people as to the amount of goods they can get? A. They can have all they can pay for. A man cannot have an unlimited quantity.

Q. Your object is to make the business as near cash as possible? A. Yes; but in the winter we allow them to have goods, and they pay for them in the spring. I think all the merchants do the same.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Would it be possible for you to send coal west by rail as cheaply as other companies? A. No; there is the expense by rail; it is 100 miles from here to the strait. It depends on how much they would charge, but the cost would probably be a dollar a ton or over; it would be \$1.80 against us over Pictou and Spring Hill. Spring Hill has a great advantage even as it is in consequence of the special rate given them. The country is paying for carrying Spring Hill coal, and the consequence is that we pay for carrying that coal to undersell our own.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is the rate to Halifax? A. I think it is three-tenths of a cent per ton per mile.

Q. Do you know the rate in Pennsylvania? A. No; there, of course, they carry such quantities that they can afford to do it cheaper. We can never hope to send coal by rail.

Q. What is the freight? A. It is \$1.40 a ton to Quebec and \$1.60 to Montreal. You cannot get a steamer under \$1.40 to Quebec and \$1.50 to Montreal. This year freights will be more.

Q. Is there any reason why you cannot send coal to Montreal as cheaply as it is sent from Buffalo to Chicago? A. I have never gone into the matter.

Q. If vessels were carrying coal from Sydney to Montreal could they get return cargoes? A. Sometimes. They could get partial cargoes. We get wire rope from England to Montreal by steamer, and the steamers that take coal up bring supplies down.

Q. Do you get flour down? A. We get that from Boston. The freight is very cheap that way. Canadian flour can be sent to Boston in bond and brought thence here cheaper than we can get it in any other way.

JAMES CONNELL, machinist, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your position? A. I am a machinist.

Q. Are there many machinists employed by the company? A. Yes; a good many.

Q. How many hours a day do you work? A. Ten hours and a half.

Q. Do you get employment all the year round? A. Yes.

Q. What is the rate of pay per day that you get? A. I get \$1.25 a day.

Q. Is that the usual pay to machinists? A. I believe that is the highest.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Did you ever work at the machinist business outside of this town? A. No; except one year.

Q. Is there any society of machinists in this town? A. No; not that I know of.

Q. Every man regulates his own wages? A. Yes.

Q. Do you live in the company's house? A. No; not now.

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. Do you own a house of your own? A. Yes.

Q. Did you build it out of money you earned in the company's employment? A. No; not all of it.

Q. Did you make it from your own investments? A. Yes.

Q. Do you pay taxes? A. Yes.

Q. What amount do you pay? A. I pay \$4 for poor and county rates and \$1 for road tax.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you get free coal the same as the miners? A. Yes; except I have to pay for the hauling.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Have you any fault to find with the management? A. No.

Q. Is everything satisfactory to you? A. Yes; it might be better, I dare say.

Q. I suppose, like the others, you would like more pay? A. Yes; and shorter hours.

By Mr. HAGGARTY:—

Q. Could you do as much in eight hours as you do in ten? A. I do not know that I could.

Q. Do you have half a holiday on Saturday? A. We stop at four o'clock on Saturday.

Q. That is all the recreation you have? A. Yes; that is all.

Q. Is there any society here by which mechanics are afforded an opportunity to advance themselves in drawing or anything of that kind? A. No.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have you a library or reading room? A. No.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Would a class of that kind be an advantage to mechanics? A. I think it would.

Q. Have the mechanics asked for a class of that kind? A. No; not that I know of.

Q. If such a class were established would the mechanics take advantage of it? A. I think they would.

Q. Do all the mechanics here work the same number of hours? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Is it 60 hours a week that you work? A. I work ten and a-half hours a day.

Q. You do not work that on Saturday? A. No.

Q. You work ten and a-half hours for five days during the week? A. Yes.

Q. And how many hours do you work on Saturday? A. I work from six o'clock until four and an hour out of that.

Q. Is there anything you could suggest that would be of value? A. No.

Q. Do you know anything of the rates of wages received by other mechanics besides machinists? A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are there any apprentices in the shop? A. There are boys there; I cannot say whether they are apprentices or not.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What would their ages be? A. I suppose they are thirteen years of age.

Q. Have you a superintendent of the machine shops? A. Yes.

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HENRY SUTHERLAND, accountant, sworn.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Give the Commission an idea of your position in connection with the General Mining Association? A. I am accountant in charge of the offices.

Q. You have also the regulation of the store? A. Yes; I have charge of the offices and the store generally.

Q. Have you power to employ and discharge hands? A. Yes.

Q. Have you power to regulate the wages? A. Yes.

Q. How do the wages of the employés in the store compare with the employés in other stores? A. I think they are about the same. They would not come to us unless they were as well paid.

Q. Are they skilled hands? A. The manager is, and the others have grown up with the store.

Q. You are not instructed by the association to favor one man more than another? A. Not at all.

Q. You have never known any cases of that kind? A. No.

Q. Are goods sold as cheaply in the company's store as in other stores? A. We could sell cheaper, but we do not wish to compete with merchants. It is only when prices are put up that we adhere to our own prices. We never advance the



prices of flour until the opening of navigation ; that is done for the protection of the men. My directions are, with that exception, not to compete with outsiders. As far as we can get information we adopt the outside prices, except where there is a combine. In the spring of 1877 all the flour was in the hands of two people, and it went up from \$7.50 to \$10 a barrel. There was no way that the people could get it until navigation opened, and the secretary came out and said that that would not do, that the men must be protected. That was the first time we opened the store.

Q. In the event of the railway being opened, could the merchants get supplies with greater facility? A. Yes; to a large extent.

Q. In the interests of the employes would it not be of advantage to undersell others? A. I think so, but the managers don't take that view. They think that others should be allowed to go on and keep store. They think that the more people who do business the better for the men.

Q. Could you give an idea of the number of people who deal in the store? A. I think we have about 250 families. I judge from the number of barrels of flour we sell in a month. I should say that not quite one-half of the employes deal at the store.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Is the garnishment of wages frequent among your men? A. No; where wages are garnisheed it would be in the case of a man coming from some other place.

Q. You would know of every case? A. Yes.

Q. And it is something so infrequent as not to be worth enquiring into? A. Yes; I think it is never done.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. How long have you been connected with the works? A. For between 15 and 16 years.

Q. Are you ever instructed to discriminate against men who do not deal with the company? A. No; it is never looked into. It only comes under my own eye.

Q. It is not part of the manager's duty to see to it? A. No.

Q. Do you find the men sober? A. Yes.

Q. Whose duty is it to go through the houses to see that they are in a proper state of repair? A. If the houses want repair the occupant reports it, and it is reported to the head carpenter, and as soon as it can be done it is attended to.

Q. Whose duty is it to see to the sanitary condition outside? A. I should think it was the duty of the health warden.

Q. Would it be his duty on the company's land? A. Yes; I should think so. Of course if anything was reported as being unhealthy the management would take notice of it.

By Mr. HAGGERTY :—

Q. Are you aware whether the health wardens attend to their duty? A. No; as far as I can judge there are not many cases of sickness.

Q. Do you not hear of cases of diphtheria? A. No; I have not heard of half a dozen cases in a year.

By Mr. HAGGERTY :—

Q. Do you know who the inspectors are? A. No.

Q. What would the duties of the health warden be? A. To look into any case of contagious disease and have it isolated, and to consult with the doctors as to the best precautions to be taken.

Q. Would fortnightly pay be an advantage to the men? A. It might in some cases, but I do not think it would here. In the winter the men would have to get credit. In the month of January there would be no work at all, and unless a man had enough to support him for two months ahead, he would have to get credit.

Q. Would fortnightly pay entail much extra work? A. Of course it would, there would have to be an extra staff.

Q. Is the credit system increasing or decreasing? A. I don't see much change, it keeps much about the same.

By Mr. HAGGERTY :—

Q. Do you buy a great deal of supplies from the surrounding country? A. No; we cannot get it, the merchants outside get most of it. We cannot even buy for cash, unless we go outside the district altogether.

A. McQUINN, clerk with Vooght Bros., North Sydney, sworn.

By Mr. HAGGERTY :—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a clerk in Vooght Bros. store.

Q. You have had a long experience in business have you not? A. Yes; a good while.

Q. What is your opinion as to the credit system—is it an advantage or a disadvantage to the men generally? A. My opinion is that the cash system would suit the men better; they would be able to buy cheaper and there would be more competition.

Q. Do you think fortnightly pay would facilitate that? A. I think so; it would be a benefit to the men.

Q. Is there any information that you could give us that would be a benefit in that direction? A. I don't know.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Do any of the miners deal with you? A. Yes.

Q. Do you find them pretty correct in their dealings? A. Yes; of course there are exceptions.

By Mr. HAGGERTY :—

Q. Do Vooght Bros. run up the price of flour in the spring? A. I have never seen it done.

Q. Do you sell as cheap as any of the stores? A. Yes; as cheap if not cheaper.

Q. If you had the cash system could you sell cheaper? A. Undoubtedly.

Q. Would you make any difference if you had customers that were sure to pay every month between those and cash customers? A. No; there is only the trouble of keeping the books.

By Mr. HAGGERTY :—

Q. If it were a general cash system would you make any difference then? A. Certainly; that is my opinion, but of course I can only speak for myself—I have no idea of what my employers might do.

Q. Have you any idea of the general opinion of the men with regard to the cash system? A. Every one I have said anything to about it wishes to have it and approves of it.

Q. Is drunkenness on the increase or decrease? A. It is on the decrease. I have reason to know. I do not believe that there is one place now to fifty that we used to see.

Q. Would a license system be better than any other? A. I think so.

Q. Why do you think so? A. I think it would be better, because people could sell openly and the district would get the benefit of the license fees to lessen the taxes.

Q. Is it not a few low places that make all the noise? A. Yes.

Q. Would there be no means of lessening that evil? A. Not under the present system.

Q. How could it be restrained? A. I could not say.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Would higher fees have any effect? A. Yes; that would close some places. I would confine it to certain localities and fix higher prices, and give licenses according to the character of the people applying for them.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What do you think of the Scott Act? A. It is only a humbug.

ALEXANDER MORRISON, bank man, sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What are you employed at? A. I am employed on the bank or platform taking the coal out of the cage.

Q. Are you employed there all day? A. Yes.

Q. What wages do you receive? A. In the winter season I get 80 cents a day and one cent for every hundred tubs we take out of the pit.

Q. Besides the 80 cents a day? A. Yes.

Q. How many tubs are a day's work? A. About 1,100 or 1,200.

Q. How long have you been employed at this business? A. I have been at it since I was able to work—15 or 16 years.

Q. You have employment all the year around? A. I do pretty much; in the winter season I lose some time.

Q. Are you a married man? A. No.

Q. Do you board out? No; I live with my parents.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you find any other work in the winter when the pits are not working? A. Yes; I generally do.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What wages do you receive in summer? A. I receive 85 cents a day and one cent and a half for every hundred tubs.

Q. That would make your wages about \$1 a day in summer? A. Yes; a little over. We got five cents advance to run the pit right along.

Q. Are there any others there besides yourself? A. Yes; five of us work where I do.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. About how many hours a day do you work in summer time? A. We work from the time the pit starts until she stops.

Q. What time do you begin in the morning? A. At six o'clock.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. If the pit stops from any cause do you get full time? A. No; we get three-quarter time.

Q. Do you bank the coal in summer? A. No; I just take it out of the cage. Others bank it.

Q. Are there any horses there? A. No.

Q. There were at the other pit? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know of fines being imposed on persons for leaving their work without authority? A. No; but if you go before the time they check you a quarter of a day.

Q. If you go an hour before the time will they check you that? A. If your work is needed they will check you, but you may go without its being known.

Q. Is it fair to check a man a quarter of a day if he only goes away an hour before the time? A. Yes; if it is so understood.

Q. The men are satisfied with that arrangement? A. Yes.



By Mr. FREED:—

Q. If you quit work altogether must you give notice? A. Yes.

Q. How much notice must you give? A. Fourteen days.

Q. If a man quits work without notice would he be paid up to the time he leaves? A. I think so; it is left to their good will to pay.

Q. You think they would not dock you anything? A. No.

Q. Does the company give the same notice when they dismiss a man? A. Yes; as far as I understand.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Are fines imposed for anything else besides leaving short hours? A. Not that I know of.

Q. Is 85 cents a day the average pay for men employed around the pit? A. Yes.

Q. Are there married men supporting families on that pay? A. Yes; as far as laborers are concerned. Some of them get 90 cents in the summer season filling in the heap.

Q. How many tubs do you have to fill? A. 86.

Q. How much would there be in each tub? A. I think there are 18 bushels in a tub.

Q. Would that be 86 tubs to each man or 86 to a pair? A. It would be 86 to a pair.

By Mr. KELLY:

Q. Do you require any shovels or tools? A. No.

Q. You don't have to supply yourself with any powder? A. No; not in our work.

JOHN McCORMAC, ex-store-keeper for General Mining Association, sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I was lately store-keeper for General Mining Association.

Q. How long were you in that position? A. For over eight years.

Q. Have you ever worked in the mine? A. No.

Q. I suppose you have had a good deal to do with the dealings of the men? A. Yes; considerable.

Q. How did you find the generality of the men. Did they buy more than they required or were they careful and considerate as to what they purchase? A. I don't know.

Q. Do you think the practice of having a credit system induces the men to buy more than they otherwise would buy? A. Yes; I think so.

Q. In that way persons buy articles that they do not want? A. Yes.

Q. I suppose there are many people who have very little coming to them at the end of the month? A. Yes.

Q. In summer I suppose they make both ends meet? A. Yes; the majority of them go in debt in the winter, and in the summer they pay their bills and pay a proportion of the debt they accumulate in the winter.

Q. The habits of the people who work around the mine are they good? A. Yes.

Q. Are the young men inclined to be sober? A. Yes; I think so as a lot.

Q. Do you ever know of any discrimination being made between persons who deal in the company's store and those who deal outside? A. I was not in a position to tell. There was no discrimination as far as I know.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Did the managers impress upon the employés habits of sobriety? A. I think the managers are a sober lot.

Q. I did not mean that, but did they take steps to keep the employés sober and induce them to take advantage of societies, &c.? A. I think so.

Q. Did the managers patronize the societies themselves? A. I don't know of their belonging to any temperance organizations.

Q. What is your idea in regard to fortnightly pay? A. I think it would be a step in the right direction.

Q. Would it be an advantage or a disadvantage to the men? A. I think it would be an advantage.

Q. Will you explain how? A. In many cases it would bring about a cash system of buying goods and if that system were brought about the people could get better value for their money. If a man sells for cash he is in a position to sell cheaper than if he sold for credit.

Q. You think it would be an advantage to the country generally as well as to the people concerned in the mine? A. Yes.

Q. Will you explain how? A. Under the present system many people go in debt in the winter season. In the summer season the association does not stop the whole of the money each month, but if a man is in debt a portion of his money is retained, and the result is that he cannot pay cash for country trade. If he had the money to buy produce from the country he could get it to much better advantage.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. If a man had the cash to buy from the country people articles that he required could he buy less than he could from the stores? A. Yes; he could buy cheaper all the time and every time.

Q. Are there many country people coming in and selling goods? A. Yes.

Q. During the winter? A. Yes; all the time.

Q. Do they bring in meat and such things? A. Not so much meat as vegetables and things of that sort.

Q. Do such people buy in any other way than for cash? A. Yes; they exchange for goods with the store.

Q. You think it tends to habits of carelessness on the part of the people to run on the credit system? A. Yes; I think so.

MALCOM FERGUSON, driver, sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. Driving.

Q. State to the Commission what your duties are from the time you go in the pit; what hours you are expected to be there and so on? A. I am expected to be there at six o'clock in the morning to start work.

Q. What time do you leave in the evening? A. Whenever you get the men's coal out.

Q. What time do you usually get done your work? A. From 2 o'clock to 6 o'clock.

Q. What are you paid daily? A. 85 cents in summer and 80 cents in winter.

Q. How long have you worked in the mine? A. Six years.

Q. What work were you placed at when you first went there? A. At trapping, keeping doors.

Q. What were you paid for that? A. 30 cents a day.

Q. Then you are advanced to helping the driver and from that to driving? A. Yes.

Q. What is the next step to be, coal cutting? A. Nothing.

Q. When you are strong enough you go at it? A. That is all.

Q. Do any of the drivers get higher wages? A. Some of them have boys with them and only get 75 cents a day.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have they more to do? A. No; but they may not be as strong or they may have bad horses.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Does the underground manager ever swear at you or abuse you? A. No.

Q. Suppose a car gets off the track and the manager sees it, does he find any fault? A. No.

Q. You have no complaint against the manager for his treatment of you? A. No.

Q. He treats you all all right? A. Yes.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. If your horse runs away and gets hurt would you be fined? A. No.

Q. Have you heard of such cases? A. Yes; I have.

Q. Who takes charge of the horse; do you bring him to the stable yourself? A. Yes.

Q. Does some one else clean him and take charge of him there? A. Yes.

Q. When do you expect to become a coal cutter? A. I don't know.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you live with your parents? A. Yes.

Q. How long did you go to school before you went to work in the mine? A. Not long; I had not much chance.

Q. Did you get a chance to get a fair English education? A. Yes; if I took it.

Q. Can most of the boys read and write? A. The majority of them can.

Q. Can you? A. No.

Q. Did you go to the night school when it was established? A. No.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Is there a night school? A. There was one last winter.

Q. Are the boys generally sober? A. Some of them.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. You surely don't mean to say that boys as young as you drink? A. Yes; and half as young as I am.

LITTLE GLACE BAY, 25th April, 1888.

JOHN CADDIGAN, miner, Bridgeport mine, swore.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a miner.

Q. How long have you been mining? A. I suppose I have been five years.

Q. Did you ever work at mining in any other place before? A. Yes.

Q. Where? A. In Ohio.

Q. How do the wages compare between Ohio and here? A. To the best of my knowledge they were better there.

Q. What do you receive here? A. We are paid by the ton.

Q. What do you receive? A. Last summer we received in one part of the pit 38 cents per ton. The pay is regulated by the height of the coal. In the next part of the pit we received 41 cents per ton, and the next part 43 cents per ton. The price was regulated according to the height. According to the best of my knowledge, if it is anything under five feet we receive 43 cents and for anything over six feet we receive 38 cents.

Q. What would be the price paid for cutting a seam of coal in Ohio? A. They paid differently there. The coal had to go over a screen and we got paid for what went over. We were paid 65 cents in one mine and 62½ in another.



Q. You got nothing for the slack? A. I cannot bring it to my mind what it was for the slack.

Q. What proportion of slack would there be in a day's work? A. I could not say.

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. Have you a house of your own? A. Yes.

Q. Did you make it out of your earnings coal cutting? A. Principally.

Q. Is there a doctor attached to the mines? A. Yes.

Q. How is he paid? A. That is a matter I was instructed to bring up here. In the first place out of each man's pay employed there is stopped 30 cents a month for school tax. I cannot swear it is 30 cents for both it and the doctor's charge are combined, but I have always understood it to be 30 cents. The men at Bridgeport, in the employ of the company, who may have three or four months without working any, have to pay these taxes for the time they are idle as well as for the time they are working. Out of this amount the company pay \$1 poll tax for those who are liable to it, who are all those over 21 and under 60, who have resided in the district for six months. After paying the poll tax the company have \$2.60 from each man for school tax. That is, the men who reside all the time in the place. They stop this amount off them as a school tax.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do the schools get the benefit of the money? A. No; the company gets the benefit. Besides this those who have property have to pay the tax imposed by law, except the poll tax, which the company pays for them.

Q. What is the amount of your school tax, by the regular valuation—what taxes do you pay? A. I cannot remember, but I think it is \$2 and some cents.

Q. That is for your own property? A. Yes.

Q. Does the \$2.60 include poor and county rates? A. No; that is the school tax only; I have to pay poor and county rates besides. If a man has one, two, or more boys working with him in the mine they have to pay this doctor and school charge to the amount of 60 cents a month.

Q. If he has two boys, must both pay? A. Yes, both must pay the 60 cents a month. A man having besides himself two boys would pay, for himself, after deducting the \$1 poll tax, \$2.60 which remains in the company's office. For each of the boys allowing that they work seven months, at 30 cents a month he would pay \$2.10, which would be for himself and the two boys \$6.80. A man with two boys would pay \$9 for the doctor and \$6.80 for school, or \$15.80 for doctor and school.

Q. Is there any other charge for the doctor? A. There is a charge of \$4 for lying in. That is what I pay.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Did you ever represent this to the inspector of schools? A. No.

Q. Did you ever consider whether it was legal to collect that amount or not? A. I know it is not legally collected.

Q. Don't you think it is a matter for the superintendent of education to deal with? A. I could not say.

Q. You never represented the matter to the superintendent or inspector? A. No.

Q. You don't know whether any representation has been made by others? A. No.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Who is the inspector for the district? A. I don't know.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you belong to the Workmen's Association? A. Yes.

Q. Have you a branch of it here? A. Yes.

Q. Have you a board of directors and so on? A. We do not work that way; we have officers.

Q. Is it not a part of their duty to deal with matters of that kind that come before them? A. I cannot say whether it was presented to the present agent, but in was to his predecessor, and he failed to remedy it.

Q. You say that you have a house of your own? A. Yes.

Q. How many rooms are there generally in the houses occupied by the miners? A. I could not say positively.

Q. How often are you paid? A. We are paid monthly.

Q. You get nothing in the interim, that is between the pays? A. No; we get no sub-pay at all.

Q. Has this company a store? A. No.

Q. Do they give you orders or allow you to get goods any place as you please?

A. I beg pardon.

Q. Do they give you orders for goods on any person? A. I never got any. If you give a man an order the money is stopped off.

Q. The company gives no orders, but you may give an order on the company—is that it? A. I never got any orders from the company on any one, but I cannot say whether they would or would not give them.

Q. About what is the usual pay made by miners? A. I could not say positively, but I can give the average of two men made in the year, but I cannot swear that it is correct.

Q. Can you tell what you made yourself? A. Not without reference to my pay tickets.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. What is the highest wages you have received in the last twelve months? A. I could not swear to the exact amount, but it was in the neighborhood of \$60.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. That is for the month? A. Yes.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. What is the lowest you have received for a month? A. I think it was \$1. I think all the taxes were deducted off that.

Q. How many days would you work? A. I could not say. Some months I would receive nothing because I did not work.

By Mr. Freed:—

Q. When the mine is working full time how many hours do you work as a rule? A. As a rule I work between 9 and 10 hours.

Q. What hour do you go down in the morning? A. A little before 7.

Q. And what time do you come up? A. Between 4 and 5.

Q. Do you take your meals in the pit? A. I take my breakfast and dinner there.

Q. You take no more time from your work than to eat these meals? A. Sometimes I do.

Q. When you get in a fair day's work, how many tons of coal can you send up? A. It would be just according to how hard I worked.

Q. What would you think would be a fair day's work? A. Well, I would say a fair day's work would be—of course some men would send up more than others.

Q. How much would you send up? A. Give me fair play and I would send up from 4 to 4½ tons.

Q. How many men work together? A. Two.

Q. Do you shovel your own coal or do you employ a shoveller? A. We shovel our own coal.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Do you riddle your coal? A. No.

Q. When it comes up is the slack deducted from it? A. No.

Q. You are paid for the slack and the round together? A. Yes.

Q. Is there any system of checking for bad coal? A. Yes.

Q. Is there an understanding between the manager and the men that the coal shall be checked if it is bad? A. I think any man understands that if he sends up bad coal it will be checked.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Were you ever checked? A. Yes.

Q. How much were you checked? A. I cannot say.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How much were you checked in any one month? A. I never was checked very often; I could not say how much.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What were you checked for? A. For what they call roof coal or splint. I cannot say whether I was checked for stone or not.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are you checked for slack? A. No; we are paid for that as it comes.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. What is deducted when you are checked? A. Generally, I think, the company's man and the men's weighman come to an agreement.

Q. Do the men complain that they are checked too frequently? A. No; I have heard complaints, but not any this spring.

Q. If there were any complaints it would be represented to the manager, would it not? A. Yes, of course, if the men thought they were unfairly dealt with. It is to the men's interest to send up good coal. If it is of bad quality, it is as bad for them as it is for the manager.

Q. Is there a slope or a shaft at your mine? A. There is a shaft.

Q. Is there a separate way for the men to come out than by the coal shaft. A. Yes.

Q. Is there a separate engine? A. No.

Q. How do they come up? A. By stairs; they could get out through the slope.

Q. What kind of stairs are they? A. Wooden stairs.

Q. How are the stairs constructed? A. You go up a certain number of steps, then there is a platform; then you go up other steps and there is another platform.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you know how many steps there are? A. No.

Q. Do you know the depth? A. I could not say positively.

Q. Can men come up the coal shaft? A. Yes.

Q. Do they frequently ride up that way? A. Yes.

Q. Are the men satisfied with that arrangement? A. Yes; they would sooner come up that way than walk, because it is so much easier.

Q. The manager has no objection to allowing them to come up that way? They sometimes do not come when coal is running.

Q. Would fortnightly pay be an advantage to the men or a disadvantage? A. It would be an advantage.

Q. Will you explain how? A. I think it would give the men a better chance to deal for cash, and would give them a chance to buy many things cheaper than they can do by the present system of monthly payments. If a man comes in with country produce and you are paid weekly or fortnightly you have cash. If you have not he goes to the store and sells what he has and you have to buy the same article on credit and pay more for it.

Q. Would it entail much extra expense on the company to have fortnightly pay? A. I cannot say. I do not understand their system, but I do not think so.

Q. Would it require extra clerks? A. I could not say.



Q. Have you ever represented the matter to the manager with regard to having fortnightly pay? A. Not to this manager.

Q. You do not live in a company's house? A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do many miners own houses? A. Not many.

Q. That is, not a great many? A. There are men working in the mines who have farms.

Q. They have not bought them out of their earnings? A. No; some of them have bought lots of two or three acres.

Q. Do they buy from the company or from other persons? A. No; they do not buy from the company; they buy from other persons.

Q. The company does not sell lots? A. Not to my knowledge.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Are fines imposed on the men in other ways than by checking coal? A. There is a fine for firing, what are called "fast shots" by plugging them.

Q. You are not allowed to plug the shots? A. No.

Q. The reason is that it is supposed to make more slack? A. Yes; but there are different opinions about that.

Q. Are there any other fines imposed? A. No.

Q. If you cut coal too wide, what is the consequence? A. I don't know of any other fine than that.

Q. How wide may you cut your faces? A. For the chambers, 18 feet. You take 9 feet each cut.

Q. If you go over 18 feet what is the consequence? A. Yes; there is a fine for that. When you are supposed to run your chamber 18 feet, at the end of the month, if the chamber averages anything over 19 feet, you are fined one cent a ton on every ton of coal.

Q. If you leave the company's employ, how much notice are you expected to give? A. There is no regulation.

Q. If you leave without notice are you paid up to the time of leaving? A. I can only say as regards myself; but I don't think. I have left and have had to take a due bill.

Q. You got all the money that was due you? A. Yes.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Is there anything else you would like to explain to the Commission? A. If there was a law to give the miners or anyone working in the mines a first lien on the rolling stock for their wages they would have a better chance to recover their money.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Have companies failed? A. They have suspended payment.

Q. For how long? A. In 1876 or 1877 a company suspended payment.

Q. What company was it? A. I think it was an American company that was working a mine then.

Q. Did the men lose their pay do you think? A. They lost some of it. They were paid in part. I lost \$28.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Have the company any printed rules? A. The only rule I know is about temperance.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Are there any other matters you know of concerning the mine or the relations between the men and the employers? A. Nothing that I can think of.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Do you get your coal free? A. No; we pay 25 cents a load for slack, the company hauls it; for round coal we pay 40 cents. Last winter we got it for 35 cents.

Q. Do both the miners and the laborers receive their coal at the same rate? A. Yes.

Q. Is it different at other mines? A. I could not say.

DANIEL McDONALD, coal cutter, Bridgeport mine, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am a coal cutter.

Q. In what mine? A. I work now in the International mine.

Q. About how many hours a day do you work? A. When the pit is working full time I work about 9 hours.

Q. About what time do you go down in the morning? A. Generally about half-past six.

Q. And you come up at what time? A. Between four and five.

Q. Can you give us an idea about how many days you can get work? A. I could not exactly tell you.

Q. Can you give us about the number of days you can work? A. I could not get very close to it. As far as the best of my knowledge goes it would average seven whole months.

Q. During the other five months are you idle altogether or are you working part of the time. I am idle pretty much altogether. This year I worked a little longer.

Q. When you are working full time about how much do you earn in a day? A. Of clear money I would earn between \$1.50 and \$1.75.

Q. Out of that what do you pay for besides powder and oil? A. I pay rent, coal, doctor and school.

Q. How much do you pay for the doctor? A. I pay 70 cents.

Q. Is that for the doctor alone or for the doctor and school? A. The doctor and school are included in the one figure; I imagine that I pay 30 cents for school, but I could not say.

Q. Do you pay for sharpening picks? A. No; the company sharpens them.

Q. Do you buy the picks in the first place? A. No; we get them from the company.

Q. Do you use open lamps? A. Yes.

Q. Does the company supply them? A. No; we buy them.

Q. Do you pay for your own oil and powder? A. Yes.

Q. How often are you paid? A. Once a month.

Q. Do you get any money between payments? A. No.

Q. If the money does not last over the month do you get credit on your own account from any store? A. Yes.

Q. You work for the same company as the last witness? A. Yes.

Q. Do you own a house? A. No; I live in a company's house.

Q. How many rooms are there in it? A. Including upstairs and downstairs there are three rooms.

Q. What rent do you pay? A. \$1.50 a month.

Q. Do all the men pay the same rent or is there a difference? A. There is a difference; some houses are better than others.

Q. What is the largest rent? A. \$1.50.

Q. What is the lowest? A. \$1.

Q. Do you think that any of the miners in your mine own houses? A. No; not many of them. There are a good many farmers who work in the mines who own their own houses.

Q. Have any of the miners money in the savings bank? A. I could not tell.

Q. Are accidents frequent in your mine? A. No; very seldom.

Q. Have there been any explosions of gas? A. No; I never saw any gas in the mine.

Q. Does the roof frequently come down? A. No; if we are mindful of it we do not go under it until we get it down, and the rest of it stays up.

Q. Do the men have to walk where the cars run? A. No; they have a travelling way beside.

Q. So that they can keep out of the way? A. Yes; there are man-holes that they can go in when they are on that way.

Q. You are in the same pit as the last witness? A. Yes.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Do you agree with the last witness generally in his evidence? A. Yes.

Q. Have you anything new to add? A. No; I think he covered pretty nearly all I know.

Q. The houses you live in are they well drained outside? A. Yes; the house I live in is pretty well finished outside.

Q. Is there a drain from the cellar? A. Not that I am aware of.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Is there sickness frequently around the place? A. Occasionally.

Q. Have you good wells of water? A. Yes; very good wells.

Q. Is the well you use pretty near the house? A. Yes; pretty handy.

Q. Are the wells protected against surface water or anything of that kind getting in? A. Pretty much.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you know of any black list existing in your company? A. I cannot say.

Q. You have never known any? A. I never could prove a case of that kind against them.

Q. Have you any general complaint to make of the way the company manages affairs? A. No.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Can you tell us how the law requires the school tax to be levied? A. I could not tell anything about that, but I have two sons working and pay monthly 60 cents apiece for doctor and school.

Q. I want to know if you know how the law requires the tax to be levied, and on what property and by what rule they assess you for the amount? A. I could not tell anything concerning that.

ALEXANDER MCGILLVRAY, miner, Little Glace Bay Mine, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What mine do you work at? A. The Little Glace Bay mine.

Q. What company operates that mine? A. The Little Glace Bay Mining Company.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Who is the superintendent of the mine? A. Mr. Rigby.

Q. How many men and boys are employed in the mine? A. I could not give a very definite account, but I think there would be about 45 pairs of men employed.

Q. You are a coal cutter? A. Yes.

Q. About how many hours a day do you work? A. We generally go down about 6 o'clock in the morning and come home sometimes as early as 4 o'clock. We generally come home from 4 to half-past 5 o'clock.



Q. About how many days in the year are you able to work? A. I could not tell the exact number of days we work.

Q. Can you tell us approximately? A. No.

Q. Are you paid by the ton? A. Yes.

Q. How much are you paid per ton? A. In some parts of the mine we are paid from 41 to 43 cents—there is a difference of two cents between different parts.

Q. That would be according to the thickness of the seam? A. Just so.

Q. Is the coal all of equal hardness? A. No.

Q. Is there any difference made on account of the varying hardness of the coal? A. No; it is all on account of the thickness of the seam.

Q. Do you send up round and slack together? A. No.

Q. Do you riddle the coal yourselves? Q. Whenever they are banking coal we do not riddle but when they are shipping we do.

Q. Then you get a higher price? A. Yes.

Q. What becomes of the slack? A. Some of it is used for the engine and some goes for workmen's coal.

Q. Are you paid for the slack? A. No.

Q. Do you shovel your own coal? A. Yes.

Q. Are you able to tell us how much you earned last year? Q. I cannot exactly say, but I can tell how much I earned for several months.

Q. State that? A. It would be \$198.60 for April, May, June, July, August and September. The figures are: For April, \$22.51; May, \$27.87; June, \$38.50; July, \$25.13; August, \$33.94; September, \$40.67.

Q. Was this what you made clear? A. No; powder, oil, doctors, school and rent were to be deducted.

Q. For September did you get in a full month's work? A. I am not quite sure, but I don't think so.

Q. Did you get some work every month? A. No.

Q. Some months you were idle for the whole month? Yes.

Q. How much time have you worked since last September? A. We worked October fairly steady, I think, and the best part of November, and I think a little in December. In January I think I was idle altogether; in February we were idle; in March we worked.

Q. Did you get a full month's work? A. No.

Q. How many days have you worked during the present month? A. Very few; in March I earned \$25 or \$26.

Q. In the year closing this March did you do as well as in former years? A. I think it would compare favorably.

Q. It would be a fair average year? A. Yes; I think so.

Q. Do you own a house? A. No; I live in a company's house.

Q. Do many men who work in your mine own houses? A. Yes; quite a number.

Q. Have they paid for them out of their earnings in the mine? A. I am not in a position to know, but I think some of them have done so.

Q. How many rooms are in the house you occupy? A. The houses are generally composed of three rooms. In some instances they have more than that. A block is divided into four dwelling houses; when it is not full you will have more rooms, but when it is full you will have two bedrooms and a large kitchen.

Q. What rent will you pay for that? A. \$1.50 a month.

Q. How many families get water from one well? A. There are two wells that I know of.

Q. How many families get water from them? A. I don't know.

Q. How many families live around them? A. I suppose 30 or 40.

Q. Not more than 40? A. No; I don't think.

By Mr. WALSEL:—

Q. Are these wells in the middle of the population? A. No; there is a part of another row of houses which has no well.

Q. Do they come to these wells? A. They go for water wherever they can get it most conveniently.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Is there a privy for each family? A. No.

Q. How many families resort to one? A. I don't know. There is one on the premises owned by the company.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Did you ever work in any other mine than this one? A. Yes; a short time.

Q. In this province? A. Yes.

Q. How do the wages here compare with the wages at other mines? A. I am not in a position to say. I think they are something about the same; they may be a shade better.

Q. How often are you paid? A. Once a month.

Q. Would fortnightly payments be of benefit to the men? A. It is my impression that they would.

Q. They would be in a better position to purchase goods? A. I think so.

Q. Do you belong to the Miners' Association? A. Yes.

Q. Have they presented the question of fortnightly payments to the management? A. Not that I know of.

Q. Do the men complain of fortnightly payments? A. Yes; they do.

Q. But they have never presented their case to the management? A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Does the company for which you work have any store? A. One of the company owns a store; I think it is the president.

Q. If you trade there is the amount taken out of your monthly payments? A. Yes.

Q. Does it make any difference if you don't trade there? A. I don't think it does.

Q. Do you get as good value there as in other stores? A. I don't think.

Q. Can you do as well there as if you had cash in hand to buy? A. No; not near.

Q. Yet you think you are free to trade wherever you please? A. Yes; as far as the store is concerned.

Q. When the mine is running short time do the men run in debt to any extent? A. Yes; I think most of them do.

Q. Are there many boys employed in the mine? A. I think there would be 15 or 16 drivers.

Q. How many cutters are employed in the mine? A. I think there are three or four.

Q. Do you know what the trappers get? A. I am not sure whether it is 40 or 50 cents.

Q. What do the drivers get? A. I think it is from 50 to 70 cents.

Q. Do you know what the laborers get? A. Some of them get 80 cents a day —I don't know whether any get more than that or not. This is a comparative list of prices in the stores.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How is the school tax and the doctor's tax levied? A. The school tax and the doctor's pay are levied separately in the mine in which I am employed. The doctor's pay is 40 cents a month, and the school tax 15 cents a month.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Do you pay 15 cents for the school every month? A. Every month that there is work.

Q. Has that been talked over with the manager? A. Yes.

Q. What was the result? A. He would not alter it.

Q. Do you consider that that tax is legal? A. I do not.

Q. Have you presented it to the school inspector? A. We have not.

Q. Would you not get more satisfaction by representing it to the proper authorities? A. If they have any authority to deal with it.

Q. You are aware that you must pay a school tax any way? A. Yes; we pay a school tax beside that.

Q. Do you know what your personal property is assessed at? A. I cannot tell.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What amount of taxes do you pay altogether independent of school tax? A. We pay \$1 for statute labor, \$1 for poll tax and 30 cents for poor rates.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. You have heard the testimony of the other witnesses? A. Yes.

Q. Do you agree with it generally? A. They are from a different colliery and I am not in a position to say. I agree that fortnightly payments would benefit the men generally.

Q. Would the average wages you get be an average for the rest of the men? A. The average would be \$242 for the year.

Q. That is from April to the end of March? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Look at this paper (memorandum handed to witness) that is the statement of your account for the month of July, 1887? A. Yes.

Q. You cut sixty-six tons and a half of coal? A. Yes.

Q. For which you are credited \$33.53? A. Yes.

Q. And you cut two cubic yards for which you were credited \$1.60? A. Yes.

Q. Making a total of \$35.13? A. Yes.

Q. Against this you were charged rent \$1.50, coal 25 cents? A. Yes.

Q. How much coal did you receive for that? A. About two loads.

Q. You are charged for the hauling and not for the coal? A. I think so.

Q. You are charged with oil 80 cents? A. Yes.

Q. Did you use that amount of oil in one month? A. I think so.

Q. You are charged with powder \$3.24? A. Yes.

Q. Was that one month's supply of powder? A. I am not sure, I have had less than that some months.

Q. Have you ever had as much as that? A. I can't say.

Q. You are charged for school 15 cents? A. Yes.

Q. For doctor 40 cents? A. Yes.

Q. For tally 30 cents? A. Yes.

Q. That is for the man the miners' employ to watch the tally? A. Yes.

Q. You are charged for store account \$28.49? A. Yes.

Q. Would you run that much every month? A. No.

Q. This would probably include some book account? A. Yes.

Q. So the credits and the debits for the month exactly balance each making \$35.13? A. Yes.

Q. You received that month no cash? A. No.

Q. Is it generally the case that at the end of the month no cash is coming to you? A. On many occasions.

Q. Do you get all your family supplies at the store? A. Most of them.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Have you any other figures you can give? A. I think that is all.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are the boys who work in the mine generally able to read and write? A. I cannot say that they all are.

Q. What is the age of the youngest boy working in the mine? A. I don't know that there is any younger than 12.

Q. Do you think the boys are well treated? A. Yes; so far as I know.



Q. You have not seen any of them beaten? A. No; nor heard of them being beaten.

Q. Do they work the same hours as coal cutters? A. Sometimes they are done ahead.

Q. Do they get a full day's pay? A. Yes; in general.

Q. Do you enter the mine by a slope or a shaft? A. By a shaft.

Q. Are the men carried up and down? A. They have to go in the cage the coal is carried in. This is a memorandum for last year, showing the total amount of earnings for the several months, and the amounts paid for rent, coal, powder, oil, school, doctor and tally. (Witness hands in memorandum).

ACCOUNT of earnings for months of 1887.

—	Total amount Earned.	Rent.	Coal.	Powder.	Oil.	School.	Docto..	Tally.
	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	cts.	\$ cts.	cts.	cts.	cts.	cts.
March .....	11 62	1 50	0 50	0 36	0 15	0 15	0 40	0 30
April.....	22 51	1 50	0 25	1 80	0 50	0 15	0 40	0 30
May .....	27 87	1 50	0 55	1 26	0 50	0 15	0 40	0 30
June.....	38 57	1 50	0 38	2 80	0 80	0 15	0 40	0 30
July .....	35 13	1 50	0 25	3 24	0 80	0 15	0 40	0 30
August.....	33 94	1 50	0 25	2 60	0 90	0 15	0 40	0 30
September .....	40 67	1 50	0 38	2 52	0 80	0 15	0 40	0 30
October .....	35 38	1 50	0 38	1 44	0 80	0 15	0 40	0 30
November.....	26 55	1 50	0 37	2 16	0 60	0 15	0 40	0 30
December .....	14 58	1 50	0 63	0 36	0 40	0 15	0 40	0 30

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Is the amount required for school purposes a fixed sum? A. Yes; I never saw it more or less.

Q. How is it collected? A. It is stopped off in the company's office.

Q. Does the municipality authorize the collection of the tax by the company in any way? A. Not that I know of.

Q. Then they collect it without authority? A. That is our impression.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Have the miners a voice in the election of a school trustee? A. They had last term for the first time so far as I am aware of.

Q. Are any of the miners elected school trustees? A. There was one for this district this year.

Q. Did he never take into consideration the amount paid for school purposes by employes in the mine? A. I don't know.

Q. You don't know how much is levied each year for school purposes on the district? A. I could not say, but I could get the amount. (Witness puts in a memorandum of earnings of several miners.)

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. This is a statement of the earnings for the year 1887, of Daniel and Alexander McDonald? A. Yes.

Q. They earned in that year for riddled coal, \$394.83—unriddled \$231.82—bank \$42.45? A. Yes.

Q. What do you mean by bank? A. That is when they were banking coal.

Q. The total is \$669.10? A. Yes.

Q. Giving each man for the whole year \$334.55? A. Yes.

Q. The statement also gives the earnings for the same year of Richard and Joseph Beaver? A. Yes.

Q. They earned for riddled coal \$156—for unriddled \$119.34—for bank \$25.05—being a total of \$300.39, and giving each man \$150.19 and a half? A. Yes.

Q. The average of the whole per man would be \$'40.37? A. Yes.

Q. Now can you explain how it is that two of those men earned more than twice as much as the other two? A. No; I only took them as the highest and the lowest.

Q. You think that the average between these two would be a fair average of the earnings of the men in the pit? A. I think it would not far off it.

Q. What circumstances would warrant two men making so much and the other two so little? A. I think the coal was easier to cut, and the men were better.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Have you anything further to add? A. No; not unless you have anything further to ask.

Memo. submitted by A. McGillivray:—

EARNINGS for 1887 of Daniel and Alexander McDonald.

Riddled.....	\$394 83
Unriddled.....	231 82
Bank.....	42 45
Total.....	<u>\$669 10</u>
Each.....	<u>\$334 55</u>

EARNINGS for 1887 of Richard and Joseph Beaver.

Riddled.....	\$156 00
Unriddled.....	119 34
Bank.....	25 05
Total.....	<u>\$300 39</u>
Each.....	<u>\$180 19½</u>

ROBERT CROSBY, coal cutter, Gowrie mines, sworn.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What mine do you work in? A. The Gowrie mines.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are you a coal cutter? A. Yes.

Q. What do you receive per ton? A. 38 cents.

Q. Is that rate uniform throughout the mine? A. That is the shipping price; the banking price is 31 cents.

Q. Is that lower than is paid in other mines in this district? A. I am not prepared to say.

Q. Is your coal easier to cut than that in other mines? A. It may be easier to some and harder to others.

Q. How many hours a day do you work when you are working full time? A. I generally work 8 or 9 hours.

Q. Can you give us an idea of what would be a fair month's earnings when you are working full time? A. When I work a full month I earn \$52.

Q. How many months in the year can you work full time? A. The months of July and August are generally the only months that we work full time.

Q. Can you give the number of days you work in a year? A. We work from 90 to 112 and so on.

- Q. Have there been years when you only worked 90 days? A. Yes.
- Q. About what is the largest number of days you have worked in a year? A. As far as my memory runs, we have not worked over 115 or 120.
- Q. Do you get other work when you are not working in the mine? A. No.
- Q. What would be your yearly earnings? A. They vary considerably. They go from \$300 to \$350.
- Q. Have you ever earned as much as \$400 in one year? A. No.
- Q. Have you ever earned less than \$300 in one year? A. Yes.
- Q. What is the lowest amount you have earned in one year? A. The lowest would be about \$256.
- Q. Is that your gross earnings, or is that the actual money paid you? A. That is my gross earnings.
- Q. Do you do about as well as the average miners in your mine? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you own a house? A. No.
- Q. Do you live in a company's house? A. Yes.
- Q. What rent do you pay? A. 50 cents a month.
- Q. How many rooms do you get for that? A. Four—two upstairs and two down.
- Q. Is that the average rent paid at your mine? A. Yes; by the miners.
- Q. Are they pretty comfortable houses? A. Not very comfortable.
- Q. Are wells provided from which you can get water? A. Yes.
- Q. Are they handy? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you pay for coal? A. Yes.
- Q. How much do you pay? A. 50 cents for round coal (screened), and 20 cents a load for slack.
- Q. That is for the coal delivered? A. Yes.
- Q. How much do you pay for the doctor? A. An unmarried man pays 30 cents for a doctor and 20 cents for school. A married man pays 30 cents for a doctor and 40 cents for school.
- Q. That is per month? A. Yes; boys under 16 when they go into the pit pay 15 cents for doctor and 10 cents for school. They pay that monthly whether they work or not.
- Q. Does the company maintain any school? A. Not to my knowledge.
- Q. Do you know whether it pays any teacher or not? A. No.
- Q. Does it provide school-houses? A. No; that is provided by the section.
- Q. Have there been any accidents in your mine? A. No; very few.
- Q. Is there any gas in the mine? A. No.
- Q. A man can work with open lamps? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you get paid for slack and round coal both? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you send them up together? A. Yes; the coal is sent up just as it comes from the pick.
- Q. Are there any fines imposed? A. No.
- Q. There is a fine for filling roof coal? A. If there is a certain amount of roof coal found in what you send up you are fined \$1 and get the credit of the tub. It does not often happen.
- Q. Do you have a tally man? A. Yes.
- Q. Does he ever object that coal which is checked is clean enough? A. No; he never objects.
- Q. He thinks that when you are checked it is done fairly? A. Yes; this is only a law that is in the mine—I have never seen it tested.
- Q. Have you been frequently checked? A. No.
- Q. Do you think the miners frequently are? A. No.
- Q. It does not frequently happen? A. No.
- Q. The fact that the fine is imposed makes them very careful? A. It is most likely.
- Q. Do you shovel your own coal? A. Yes.
- Q. Do you know what the trappers receive? A. They get 40 cents a day.



Q. Do you know what the drivers receive? A. They get from 70 to 80 cents a day.

Q. Do you know what the laborers receive? A. They get from 80 cents to \$1 a day.

Q. Do you know what the age of the youngest boy is? A. I am not prepared to say, but I would take them to be from 11 to 12 years.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Are you paid fortnightly or weekly? A. I am paid monthly.

Q. Do you prefer that to being paid fortnightly? A. No.

Q. Is there any store in connection with your mine? A. Yes.

Q. Are you compelled to go there? A. No.

Q. Is there any discrimination against men that do not deal there? A. I do not know of any.

Q. It is not the opinion of the men that there is any discrimination? A. I don't think.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Is there any other store? A. Yes.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Do men get better value for their money when they are paid fortnightly? A. I think so.

Q. Do the men ever represent to the manager that it would be a benefit to them to be paid fortnightly? A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. Can you get goods in the company's store as cheaply as you can elsewhere? A. Some articles you can.

Q. If there was a cash system would it be an advantage to the miners generally? A. I think so.

Q. Is there a benefit society to which the management and the men contribute? A. No; not any.

Q. Are such societies in existence at other mines? A. I don't know of any.

Q. Do you think the men would approve of the adoption of such a plan? A. I think so; I know the locality I represent would.

Q. When a miner falls sick or is injured what means of subsistence has he? A. He depends on the charity of his fellow workmen.

Q. Has he any other means of support except that? A. There is none that I know of.

Q. Do cases of that kind frequently occur? A. We have had a few of them.

Q. What amount of subscriptions would be raised during the year among the miners for charitable purposes, such as helping fellow miners in distress? A. To the best of my knowledge not much over forty or fifty dollars during the year; that is to the best of my knowledge.

Q. Have you anything to add to the testimony of the previous witness? A. No.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Do you belong to the Miners' Association? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know of a black list of members who are active in the interest of the association? A. No; I don't know of any where I belong.

Q. There is no objection to men being active in advancing the interests of the association raised by the employers? A. No.

Q. There is nothing you can add to the testimony of previous witnesses? A. I don't think so.

## DUNCAN MCINTYRE, Caledonia mine, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What mine are you employed in? A. The Caledonia mine.

Q. About how many men are employed there altogether? A. In summer I think there are as high as 80 pairs—that would be 160 miners.

Q. How many boys and laborers do they employ? A. Perhaps about 20 boys.

Q. And laborers how many of them do they employ? A. There are a good many laborers working there—I cannot give an idea of how many.

Q. About 50? A. I think not. I would say 30 at some times and 20 at other times. Perhaps they would have an average of 25.

Q. About how many hours a day do you work? A. It is very hard to say; the men are their own masters, and they come up when they like. They are generally on the bank ready with their tools at 6 o'clock in the morning, but it may be 7 when they go down.

Q. About what time do you come up? A. From half-past two until half-past five or six.

Q. Will the average be as late as four o'clock? A. It will average as late as a quarter past four.

Q. Give us an idea of how many days' work you do in a year? A. I think we work about eight months of 22 days in the year all put together.

Q. During the other four months do you think you do nothing at all? A. I think not.

Q. When you work a full day about what are your earnings? A. I know we all work harder than we can stand it. We work harder digging coal than we can stand it a long time.

Q. Some pairs of men dig 10, 12 or 13 tons? A. I think 10 tons of coal is very good work for one pair of men in that colliery.

Q. Do you shovel your own coal? A. We do.

Q. How much do you receive per ton for shovelling coal? A. 33 cents a ton in summer. The price paid in the banking season is 28 cents a cubic yard.

Q. Do you send up your coal round and slack together? A. Yes; we send it all up together.

Q. And in the summer you get 33 cents for round and slack as it comes? A. Yes.

Q. Does the man who sends up slack get as much as others? A. I think it is to a man's interest to send up as little slack as possible, in order to keep up the market for the coal. They do not make more slack than is necessary.

Q. Are you able to tell us how much you made last year? A. No.

Q. The work began on the 8th March, 1887? A. The miners were idle until that time. In June, 1887, the gross amount of my work was \$29.75.

Q. How much was deducted from that? A. Powder and oil, \$2.84; sundries, \$1.90; store, \$20.23; check, weighman, 35 cents; cash, \$5. (That was in advance.) There was a balance of \$4.18.

Q. So there was not much coming to you? A. There was a balance of \$4.18.

Q. How frequently are you paid? A. Once a month.

Q. If you require money between the days of payment do you get it? A. It depends on circumstances. If they see you are not able to meet the store bill they are very dubious about advancing money; but if you are able to meet the store bill it is very likely that they will give the advance.

Q. The company keeps a store then? A. I am not prepared to say whether it is the company or one of the company. As far as I have seen the flour and molasses and the cases goods are all marked D. M. K., which I think means David McKeen.

Q. Who is he? A. He is the manager of the Caledonia Coal and Railway Company.

Q. Are you required to deal at that store, or may you deal at any store you please? A. I will just speak of my own case. The clerk in the store told me per-

sonally it was in our option whether to deal there or not, but in the spring I began to work there, I think it was the spring of 1884 or 1885, I went there to look for work in April, and I got work on the understanding that I would take goods for work during the banking season. But he only specified the banking season. In the winter the people that own farms and timber land make contracts to furnish timber for the colliery, and they are paid out of the store because they do not want to advance any cash for timber in the winter. I have that from one of the bosses. I was getting timber for them, and one of the bosses said he did not want to give me the timber because I was not enough in debt at the store.

Q. Do most of the miners deal at that store? A. I think so. I don't think there are half a dozen families at the colliery but deal at the store.

Q. How many different varieties of goods do they keep at the store—groceries and dry goods? A. They keep a nice store in summer; there are groceries, boots and shoes and family supplies.

Q. How is it in the spring? A. In the spring the men who depend on the store get flour, tea, oatmeal and molasses. I think that is all that has been there since work commenced on the first of March.

Q. If you have not money in the winter when there is no work, to what extent will they give you credit? A. I will give you my experience. In 1887 I left about \$200, that is I dealt there to that amount. On the 1st of January I wanted a barrel of flour; we get orders from one clerk to the clerk of the warehouse. I asked him for the order, and he went into the company's office, and when he came out he came to me and said, you will not be supplied this winter at all. How is that, I asked him, he said you did not make any arrangement with Mr. McKeen for supplies. I went into the office and asked Mr. McKeen if he would not trust me with a barrel of flour, and he said, no, he did not see what claim I had to ask for a barrel of flour, I said that I had dealt at the store to the amount of \$200 in 1887, and I thought he should give me the barrel of flour. He then told the book-keeper to write me out an order and we had no further talk about it. That is the way they served me. I think they are a little freer with others.

Q. You are working for the company now? A. I am.

Q. Are you a married man? A. I am.

Q. Do you live in one of the company's houses? A. I do not.

Q. The company has houses? A. They have.

Q. Can you get as good a house from other persons as you can from the company? A. No.

Q. The company rents at a lower rate than you can get the same kind of houses from others? A. We cannot get the same kind of houses from others.

Q. Why? A. They have not got them. There is only one man that has houses to rent, and I would rather go in the company's houses than his, for I think they are cheaper.

Q. Does it make a difference in reference to getting work whether you live in a company's house or some one else's? A. I think it does. Mr. McKeen told me that the only ones that had any claim on him were those who lived in his houses.

Q. Do you know the character of the company's houses; have you ever been inside of them? A. I never visited the company's houses any until to-day, when I made it my business to see at least one of them. I knew that there were three different rows, and that there was likely to be a difference between them. I went into the first house I chanced to come to; I only went into one, and I did not pick the worst nor the best. I walked in and spoke to the woman and she gave me an idea of what the house was like, and I saw for myself.

Q. How many rooms were there in it? A. There was an entry at the door where you go in; there was a kitchen and a small closet for dishes; and there was one small bed room down stairs. She said all the stairs part was open; I did not go up to see.

Q. Was it plastered up stairs? A. Yes; but it was all open.

Q. Could it be used as a bed room? A. It could in summer, but it would be too cold in winter.



Q. Did the house seem in good repair? A. It did.

Q. Do you know how many wells there are to the houses? A. There was one well near the stable and one near the store; that was all.

Q. How near is the stable to the houses? A. There are two rows, known as the French rows, near the well. There is another row called the "monkey row," a long distance away from it.

Q. How near is the well to the stable? A. It would not be outside of 40 or 50 feet.

Q. Do you think the surface water could drain into the well? A. I could not say.

Q. What rent was paid for those houses? A. \$1.50 as far as I know. I did not ask particularly as to the rent, but I always understood that the rent for that row was \$1.50. I enquired if there was a cellar under the house, and they said no. I asked if there was any kind of a hole under the floor and the woman showed me. It was about 18 inches deep. I asked if there was a drain and the woman said no. I looked to see for myself and there was none. She said she had seen the water as high as the floor in the hole. I asked if they ever had sickness in the house, and she said yes, that they had been four weeks quarantined with diphtheria. It was in digging time. They had some potatoes in the ground that they could not dig themselves and as no one dug them for them, they were lost. They were not allowed to go out of the house themselves.

Q. When men leave the company's service how much notice are they expected to give? A. I don't think they give any notice any more than a day or two.

Q. If a man leaves without giving notice how soon does he get his pay? A. He gets it at the regular pay day. They will give you a due bill, and you may be able to get it cashed.

Q. Do you get it cashed at its face? A. No; you have to give a percentage.

Q. How much does the company keep off for the doctor? A. A single man pays 50 cents every month, and a man with a family pays 40 cents.

Q. Do you pay that whether you are working or not? A. I understand so. I did not pay for doctor or school myself.

Q. How was that? A. The first eight months I worked I paid the doctor, and then I met with an accident; I got a pick driven through my hand, and the doctor would not attend me as I lived a mile from the colliery. When I got well I objected to pay the doctor as he would not attend me. I believe the doctor himself said he would rather not take my money. I believe I am not the only one that does not pay.

Q. You do not pay school taxes either? A. No; I am a ratepayer, and it appears that they do not charge it to ratepayers. They only charge it to miners who do not pay rates themselves.

Q. The school tax the others pay is 15 cents a month? A. Yes.

Q. Do they pay that when they are not working? A. I don't think so. But if we only work eight months in the twelve taken altogether, there may be some days on every month, and if they work any days on the month the 15 cents will have to come off of it. If a man only works three days the company will take the 15 cents off.

Q. Do the men who pay the 15 cents a month pay a poll tax? A. Yes; they pay a dollar poll tax and the county tax.

Q. The company has nothing to do with that? A. No; that is the law.

Q. How old are the youngest children who work in the mine? A. I think I am safe in saying that they are working as young as nine and ten years under ground.

Q. Are you safe in saying that? A. I think so, from the appearance of the boys.

Q. Can they read and write? A. I think they have a small chance.

Q. Are they all trappers? A. Generally.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Are there any fines imposed? A. No; except if you do not work your coal according to the regulations. For instance, if you plug a piece of coal, that is, if

you use powder to knock out a piece of coal instead of picking it out, there is a fine of five dollars.

Q. You are paid monthly? A. Yes.

Q. Is that an advantage? A. No; we think it is a disadvantage.

Q. Will you explain how? A. We are not even paid monthly. If we begin work on the 1st of May, we do not get any money until the 15th June, and then we only get paid for the work done in May. That is, one-third of the money is kept back.

Q. You get all the money for May on the 15th of June? A. Yes; but we have to wait a month and a half for our pay.

Q. Do you get any sub-pay? A. No; except we may go to the office and ask the paymaster for a little money; he may advance it if he thinks we can make both ends meet. When we get paid monthly the only place we have to go to for supplies is the company's store, and we pay higher there than we would do at the cash store. I will give a few of the prices if you will take them. I did not pick out the dearest articles or the cheapest. In the company's store we pay \$6.25 for a barrel of flour; in the cash stores we get it for \$5.50. A pound of tea in the company's store costs 35 cents; in the cash store it costs from 22 to 30. Sugar is 9 cents a pound in the company's store and 8 cents in the cash store. Soap is 7 and 8 cents a pound in the company's store and the same quality in the cash store is 5 cents a pound. Molasses is 50 cents a gallon in the company's store and 40 cents in the cash store. Butter is 22 and sometimes 26 cents a pound in the company's store, while, if you buy it from countrymen or from the neighboring stores, it will average 20 cents.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Are all those articles of the same brand and as good quality as from the company's store? A. Yes; as far as I know.

Q. Tea and molasses are lower? A. Yes. I might say further that the potatoes I buy from the company's store cost 80 cents a bushel, while I can get them for cash for from 40 to 45 cents, so what brings me and a good many workmen to the company's store is because we have no cash we have so long to wait for our money.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Have there been any accidents in your mine of late? A. No; not many. I know of some.

Q. Is there much gas in the mine? A. There is.

Q. Can you work with open lamps? A. I can.

Q. Does any one go into the mine before the workmen to see if there is any gas? A. They do.

Q. Have there been any explosions of gas? A. No; there have been no explosions, but I know of one man being burnt.

Q. Was he badly burnt? A. He was off from his work for a considerable time.

Q. Does the roof come down to a considerable extent? A. No; we have no difficulty overhead. On the eastern side of the pit, where they are working at pillars, the roof comes down.

Q. Have you known men to be hurt? A. Yes.

Q. How long ago? A. Last year.

Q. Were they badly hurt? A. One of them had his leg broken.

Q. Is there any fund from which men get relief when they are hurt or sick? A. No.

Q. Is there none among the miners themselves? A. No.

Q. You don't get any from the association to which you belong? A. The only relief that is given is out of the funds of the association or out of the miners' pockets. The miners generally get up a subscription for those who are not able to help themselves. I have known of a subscription being got up and the men contributed and so did the manager.

Q. Does the doctor attend men who are laid up for a long time without extra charge? A. Yes; he attends them straight through.

Q. Does he make an extra charge in case of child-birth? A. He does.

Q. What is it? A. I think it is \$4.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do the miners have any voice in the election of a doctor? A. No; not that I know of.

Q. The manager appoints him? A. Yes; as far as I know.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. You have nothing else to suggest have you? A. No; I think every stone is turned, pretty much.

F. C. KIMBER, agent and superintendent of the Sydney and Louisbourg Coal and Railway Company, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your position? A. I am agent and superintendent of the Sydney and Louisbourg Coal and Railway Company.

Q. How many mines does your company operate? A. One.

Q. Where is that situated? A. At the Reserve.

Q. It is called the Reserve Mine? A. Yes.

Q. How many men and boys are employed at that mine? A. From 180 to 250 all told, according to the busy time of the year.

Q. About how many of those are miners? A. At present we have about 90 cutters.

Q. How many boys have you? A. We have 37 boys; that is the average number we employ.

Q. How many laborers have you? A. We have 15 on an average below, and 18 on the surface.

Q. How much do you pay your laborers? A. We pay them 90 cents to \$1 and \$1.10.

Q. Is there any difference made according to the season of the year? A. Yes; we have a reduction of 10 cents a day in the winter.

Q. Do they work the same number of hours in the winter? A. Yes.

Q. Is there any difference made between the surface laborers and those below? A. There is a slight difference in favor of those below.

Q. When a boy goes in as a trapper what do you pay him? A. We pay him 35 cents.

Q. Does he get any more? A. He might get a slight rise.

Q. Does he become a driver? A. As a general rule, yes.

Q. What do you pay drivers? A. We pay drivers 80 cents a day.

Q. Are they all paid that? A. Yes.

Q. Are your cutters all employed by the ton? A. Yes.

Q. What do you pay them? A. We pay them 38 cents in summer for riddled coal, and 32 cents for unriddled coal in winter.

Q. Is that for all the coal they cut? A. Yes.

Q. This unriddled coal, does it include everything that comes down? A. No; they riddled the wholings.

Q. They are restricted to a certain amount of slack, are they? A. They are not allowed to send up the slack.

Q. I understand that in winter they send everything up? A. Yes.

Q. Do they send up the slack then? A. Yes.

Q. Is there a fine if they send up too much slack? A. Yes; in the summer time there is.

Q. How much may they send up? A. There is no specified quantity.

Q. It depends on the judgment of the checker? A. Yes.



By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Through what screen does it pass? A. Through a half inch screen.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. If the checker thinks they send up too much slack, what is the penalty?  
A. We fine them 400 pounds. That is one-fifth of the tub.

Q. Are these fines frequent? A. Yes; pretty frequent.

Q. Can you tell us the aggregate amount of fines last year? A. Not without referring to the books.

Q. Are you able to tell the Commission the greatest number of days worked by the miners last year, and the gross amount of their earnings? A. The mine worked 209 days, but the men would not average that. The mine worked 209 full working days, but the men would not average as much, as a man might be absent two or three days.

Q. Would your miners aggregate 200 days all around? A. Yes; I think so.

Q. What would be the gross amount of their earnings. A. The average number of tons per day per cutter was four and three-quarters tons at 33 cents, or it might be 40 cents a ton.

Q. That would give \$1.90 a day gross earnings? A. Yes; that would be right.

Q. What deductions are made? A. They have to find their powder, oil and wick.

Q. What is the gross amount of deductions from the pay? A. About 15 cents per day.

Q. Do the men provide their own lamps? A. Yes.

Q. Do they pay for sharpening their picks? A. No.

Q. Do they buy them in the first instance? A. No; the company supplies them.

Q. Does the company supply all the tools? A. Yes.

Q. Are the men carried down the shaft? A. No; there is a slope; they walk down and up.

Q. Are they permitted to ride? A. No; it would be dangerous.

Q. What is the length of the slope? A. 1,200 feet on the longest side and 800 or 900 on the other.

Q. What is the angle of the slope? A. I don't know; it is not very steep.

Q. Are there any steps? A. No.

Q. Would it be an expense or an inconvenience to carry the men down and up the slope. A. I don't know; we never contemplated the necessity of it.

Q. How frequently do you pay your hands? A. Once a month.

Q. Do you ever give them an advance between payments? A. Yes; we very often advance small amounts if they require it.

Q. Does that often happen? A. Yes.

Q. Does the company keep a store? A. No.

Q. Does any one under its direction do so? A. No; we have nothing to do with keeping store or supplying goods to any of the men.

Q. Is there any store in which any manager or any official of the company is interested? A. No.

Q. Does it make any difference to the company where the men trade? A. No; I don't think so.

Q. Does the company accept orders from the men for advances from any store?  
A. Yes; they accept orders from the general store there.

Q. And they become responsible for their payment? A. No; if there is sufficient pay coming to a man an order covers it. We pay it to the store.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. You stop it from the man? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. The company is not interested in the store? A. No.

Q. And it makes no difference to the company whether the men trade there or not? A. No.

Q. They may trade where they please? A. Yes; and they often do.

Q. Does the company own houses? A. Yes.

Q. What rent do you charge the men? A. For some houses we charge \$1 and for some \$1.25.

Q. How many rooms are there in the houses at \$1.25? A. There are two rooms on the ground floor.

Q. Can you tell us the cost of the tenements that rent for \$1.25? A. They were put up before my time. I do not know.

Q. Are they kept in a good state of repair? A. Yes.

Q. If a man reports his house out of repair, is attention immediately given to the matter? A. Yes.

Q. And the repairs are made if they are found to be necessary? A. Yes.

Q. How many houses are there to one well? A. I really do not know.

Q. How many houses are there to one out-house? A. I cannot tell that either.

Q. Does the company deduct anything from the men on account of schools? A. Yes.

Q. What is that deduction? A. It is 40 cents a month for a married man and 25 cents a month for a single man.

Q. Is that deduction made for every month in the year, or only while they are working? A. It is made for every month in the year.

Q. For what reason does the company deduct that school tax from the men? Why should the company collect a school tax from the men? A. Well, it is to pay for the schooling of their children. There is an unusual system at our mine; the company provide the school building, and by an arrangement in force for many years this amount is deducted monthly from the men and paid to the trustees.

Q. Is that the whole school tax paid by the miners? A. Yes.

Q. Is the tax deducted always the same? A. Yes.

Q. Is the assessment for school purposes always the same throughout the mine? A. There is no assessment; the amount is kept off in lieu of assessment.

Q. Is this an arrangement between the company and the trustees, or has it the force of law? A. I don't know.

Q. Is there not a law of the province in relation to assessments for school purposes? A. I believe there is.

Q. Can this arrangement be made without warrant of law? A. I don't know.

Q. The company pays no school taxes? A. Not in that district.

Q. Does it pay any other municipal taxes? A. Yes.

Q. Can you tell us the amount? A. The county rates are \$800 or \$900 a year.

Q. What is the assessed value of the company's property? A. At present I think it is somewhere in the neighborhood of \$70,000 or \$75,000. I think it is \$75,000.

Q. Does the company pay any other school tax than that collected from the miners? A. Not for that district; it pays in Sydney.

Q. But not where the mine is? A. No; as I said it provides a school-house.

Q. Does it pay the teacher's salary? A. No.

Q. Does it keep the school-house in repair? A. Yes.

Q. Does it find it in fuel? A. Yes.

Q. Do unmarried men pay the same school tax as married men? A. I think they pay 25 cents a month.

Q. Are the boys taxed also? A. I do not know what the rule is on that subject; below a certain age I think they are not taxed.

Q. Do you know what that age is? A. No.

Q. Is it below sixteen do you think? A. I think it is over that.

Q. Do you require any notice from men when they leave the company's service? A. We never get it.

Q. If a man leaves without giving notice, does he get his pay in full? A. Yes. When he leaves he gets a due bill which is paid in full the next pay day. Very often he is paid when he leaves.

Q. If you dismiss a man is he paid at once? A. Yes, usually, but there is no fixed rule about it.

Q. Do many of your men own houses? A. Not many.

Q. Are there some who do? A. Yes; I think there are three or four.

Q. Do men who do not own houses invest money in the savings bank or in other ways? A. I do not know. I am told that some of them have money, but it is simply a matter of report. Personally I don't know.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. In the event of a man being injured in the mine is there any fund to which the men and the management contribute from which he can get assistance? A. No; there is no provident fund.

Q. Has any representation ever been made about having such a fund? A. I did say something about it three or four years ago, but nothing has ever been done.

Q. Would it entail much extra labor to pay the men fortnightly? A. Yes; it would be a considerable inconvenience to us.

Q. Would it not be an advantage to the men? A. I don't think so.

Q. How many stores are there at the Reserve Mine? A. There is a general store and one other besides.

Q. Is the competition between them pretty keen as regards the prices of goods? A. I don't know.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Could you give us the gross number of tubs of coal checked in the run of a year? A. I could, by looking over the books.

Q. Could you send it to us? A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever have a strike in the mine? A. We had a stoppage of work last year.

Q. What was the cause of it? A. A demand for increased wages on the part of the cutters.

Q. How did you settle it? A. They resumed work without getting it.

Q. Did you ever consider the necessity of arbitration in matters of that kind? A. I have always been able to settle with the men.

Q. You have small boys sometimes at work in the mine? A. Thirteen years is the age at which we take them.

Q. Do you usually ask the age? A. Yes.

Q. Do they ask work for themselves or do their parents ask? A. Their parents generally ask.

Q. Do you ever ask whether the boys can read or write? A. It is known that he has been attending school. They are always our own boys who live on the place.

Q. You have no positive knowledge about that? A. No; we do not examine them in any way.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Can you give the total number of days worked by the miners last year, and the aggregate of their pay? A. Yes.

Q. With the deductions for powder, oil, coal, school tax and doctor? A. Yes.

Q. Please have that prepared and addressed to the Commission at St. John, N. B.? A. I will.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you ever discriminate between the men living in your own houses and those who live outside? A. Our own men get the first show.



Q. How are the habits of the men; are they sober? A. I think so. There may be exceptions, but at the present time they are generally steady.

Q. Have you ever been employed in connection with any other coal mine?  
A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are your men mostly Nova Scotians? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any foreign miners? A. No.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. You never import any? A. No.

LITTLE GLACE BAY, 26th April, 1888.

C. H. RIGBY, superintendent Glace Bay Mining Company, sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am superintendent and agent of the Glace Bay Mining Company.

Q. How long have you been connected with that company? A. For 25 years.

Q. As manager? A. No; I have been in their employ for 25 years. I have been manager four years.

Q. How many men have you employed as miners? A. The number varies. Last year our monthly list reached from 160 to 200.

Q. How many of these would be miners? A. From 90 to 120.

Q. How many boys have you employed? A. About 25; sometimes we have less and sometimes more.

Q. How many laborers have you? A. I think we have 60 or 64, that is boys and laborers together.

Q. Put them separately? A. We have 65 laborers and mechanics.

Q. What amount do you pay laborers per day? A. We pay them from 85 cents to \$1.20.

Q. What do you pay mechanics? A. From \$1.10 to \$1.30.

Q. What do you pay machinists? A. We pay them \$1.50.

Q. What you pay blacksmiths? A. We pay them \$1 to \$1.25.

Q. What are the boys employed at? A. They are employed as trappers and drivers.

Q. What are their ages? A. 12 years is the youngest.

Q. Can they read or write? A. We never ask that.

Q. You do not think that is part of your duty? A. No; their parents are their guardians and when they ask for work we give it. As a rule, I think, they can all read and write.

Q. Have you houses attached to the mine? A. Yes.

Q. How many of the miners live in them? A. Nearly the whole of them.

Q. What is the usual rent charged for the houses? A. \$1.50 is the monthly rent.

Q. Have you any other prices? A. There are some for \$2 for mechanics. They are all \$1.50 I might say.

Q. Have you ever looked into their sanitary condition? A. They are not as good as they might be. We generally look through them once or twice a year.

Q. Are there any privies attached to them? A. No; there were at one time, but I think they only stood two weeks when they were torn down. They were not required apparently, and we have done nothing since.

Q. Would it not be better to erect them and inflict a fine for any damage? A. It might be, but it would be difficult to enforce. Our workmen live by themselves away from the rest of the community.

Q. Have you a store in connection with the works? A. Not in connection with the company.

Q. Do the miners give orders on the company? A. Yes.

Q. The company is not directly interested in the store? A. It is not interested at all. It is the private property of the president.

Q. Do you discriminate between the men who deal there and those who do not? A. Never.

Q. I suppose most of the miners deal there? A. I think not.

Q. Do many of the miners own houses of their own? A. Quite a number of them.

Q. What would be the value of the houses? A. I suppose they would run from \$300 to \$600 or \$700.

Q. Does the company sell land or lease it to those who wish to buy? A. No.

Q. If they want it they must get it outside? A. Yes.

Q. The company has no leases of land outside? A. None at all.

Q. What is the valuation placed on your property by the assessors? A. \$55,000.

Q. What is the gross taxation? A. I think it was \$14,000 last year.

Q. Do you charge the men school taxes? A. Yes; those who are not rate-payers.

Q. You mean those who are not assessed by the assessors? A. Yes.

Q. In what manner have the company an agreement with the assessors? A. We have no such agreement.

Q. You assess the men so much per month? A. Yes; those who are not rate-payers pay 15 cents a month while they are working.

Q. Is there any other assessment on them for school purposes? A. If they live in the district the law enforces a tax from every male in the district over the age of 21.

Q. Of how much? A. \$1.

Q. Do they pay that as well as the 15 cents? A. Yes; if they live in the district six months prior to the school meeting. If they have not lived that long in the district they do not. They pay it where they may have lived before.

Q. But in addition to that? A. They pay the 15 cents a month.

Q. Is that the amount that it is supposed the assessment of the company will amount to? A. No; it is an arbitrary amount as a return to the company for the amount paid by the company for the education of their children. For instance we pay \$400 and we receive from that assessment something like \$100.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. In effect your property is assessed so much for school taxes and you collect part of that from the men? A. Yes; that is it.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What do you pay your cutters? A. In making an average of labor and its value at the different works, it is unfair to take the whole amount of labor of the men and the number of days' work, and the amount, and divide the amount by the days to find the value per man, because there are many men who cannot do a day's work and who do not make as much as the fair average workman, and that reduces the average value of a fair workman's labor.

Q. Do you take ten of the best men? A. No; I take five of the best and five fair.

Q. What is the average? A. The best gets 193 days and the fair 180 days. The amount of money that the 193 men earned was \$1,977; the 180 day men earned \$1,392.80. That was an average in the one case of a little over \$2, and in the other of \$1.52.

Q. I suppose you cut the coal by the yard? A. No; we cut by the ton.

Q. What do you pay in the shipping season for run of the mine? A. We pay from 36 to 38 cents, according to the height. We make a difference of two cents on the ton—37 cents a ton would be the average.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Does an equal amount come from each height of seam? A. Yes, an equivalent amount.

Q. Have there been any strikes at your mine? A. Not since I have been manager.

Q. How was the last strike that occurred settled? A. I don't know; it was a long time ago, but I believe it was settled between the men and the manager.

Q. Have you a doctor in connection with your mine? A. Yes.

Q. How is he appointed? A. I think the men recommend him, and if the company see nothing against him they accept him; but they would not accept a doctor that would not be equal to the work.

Q. Does the same doctor that the men have attend the family of the manager? A. Yes.

Q. What do you charge the men each month for the doctor's services? A. 40 cents a month for married men and 30 cents for unmarried men.

Q. Are the boys charged anything? A. I think the boys over 18 pay the 30 cents.

Q. This is a fee fixed by the company, is it? A. No; it is fixed by agreement between the men and the company, and the company becomes responsible to the doctor for the amount.

Q. How often do you pay your hands? A. We pay once a month.

Q. Has there been ever a demand by the men to be paid oftener? A. No; I do not remember any such demand.

Q. Do you think it would be any benefit to them to be paid more frequently? A. I suppose it would. It would give them ready money.

Q. What would it cost the company? A. It would cost the employment of another clerk, and it would cause a great deal of work.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Would it not be possible to make a sub-pay? A. Not very well.

Q. Are you not aware that there is such a system at the Spring Hill mines? A. Yes; and I think it has caused a great deal of trouble there. Where the men's work is so unequal the men's accounts would have to be made up to some extent in order to get at the amounts due them.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How many hours a day do the men work? A. A good man goes down at six o'clock in the morning and comes out all the way from 3 o'clock to 4 in the afternoon. Sometimes they get out at 2 o'clock. They must go down at 6 o'clock in the morning and they come out whenever they please.

Q. Do you lower all the men down? A. Yes.

Q. Have you any charge for picks when a man comes to work? A. No; there is a charge for a shovel.

Q. He has to buy the shovel? A. Yes.

Q. And powder and oil? A. Yes.

Q. What is the state of sobriety among your men? A. It is very fair indeed.

Q. Throughout the district generally would the condition of the men be improved if the sale of liquor could be absolutely prohibited? A. Undoubtedly.

Q. Would you favor a law for the absolute prohibition of the sale of liquor within a certain distance of a mine? A. Yes; I would favor such a prohibition within five miles or even within three miles of a mine. There is such a law, but it only applies to cases where there is a danger of an uprising, but I think that if it were applied to all districts it would be an advantage.

Q. What is the state of education among the miners? A. It is better than it was years ago.

Q. An English education in general? A. Yes; all the children attend school very regularly and the boys who work in the mine when they are idle attend school too.



Q. The men are as sober as people of that class generally? A. Yes.

Q. You have no foreigners in the district? A. No.

Q. Have you had any experience with miners in other countries? A. No.

Q. You don't know how they compare with miners elsewhere? A. If I judge from some who have come here I should say that they compare very favorably.

Q. Did you ever import any foreign miners? A. No; there were some who came and they were a very bad lot.

Q. Is there any further information you could give that would be of benefit to the Commission or the miners generally? A. I don't know of anything now, but I should certainly like to see the law in relation to prohibition of the sale of liquor carried out. I think all the workmen in the district would be glad to see that done.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Have the officials taken any steps to prevent the sale of liquor? A. They did at one time, but owing to the uncertain state of the law it was ineffectual.

Q. Were they backed up by the men? A. Yes.

Q. Are there any fines inflicted in the mine? A. Yes; there is a fine for sending up dirty coal. They lose the tub.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you inflict many fines? A. No; I could not say what number were inflicted last year, but they were very few.

Q. Do you ever discriminate against men who may be members of the Miners' Association? A. No.

Q. You never ask whether a man belongs to the association or not? A. No; I don't care so long as he is sober and industrious and does what he bargains to do, it is all right.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. There is no provident or benevolent society at your mine is there? A. No.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Would the company be willing, if the men subscribed a certain amount, to subscribe liberally towards such a society? A. I could not say.

Q. Would it not be advisable to consider the necessity of such a scheme? A. It might be—I suppose the company would have no objection to assist anything of that kind.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you ever visit the schools? A. Yes; I used to be a trustee. I think the schools are fairly visited by people who take an interest in the children. In regard to the price of coal there is a difference of five cents between riddled and unriddled coal.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you ship coal in the winter season? A. We ship from the middle of April to the middle of January. We have shipped all the year around.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Is your bay open ahead of other mines? A. It is a month ahead of Sydney. I have made a memorandum as to the business of the place. Last year we shipped 165 days. If we had had the business we might have shipped 190 days. That will give an idea of how long the shipping season is. The quantity shipped by ourselves was 75,000 tons. There were 34 steamers employed in carrying that quantity of coal and 117 sailing vessels.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. They made that number of trips? A. Yes. The total trade of the harbor was 177,000 tons. There were two collieries shipping. The Caledonia and ourselves.

That was the total. To carry that quantity of coal there were employed 325 sailing vessels, and 74 steamers.

Q. Do ocean steamers call here? A. Steamers from Montreal get bunker coal here, but the draught will not admit large craft.

Q. What is the draught of water? A. 19 feet is what we guarantee.

NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED EACH MONTH.

	Names.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total days.	Total amount earned for the year.
															\$ cts.
22	James Adamson ...	5	.....	3	18	3	24	21	26	23	22	16	11	173	473 90
17	Henry Dulap.....	5	.....	3	19	17	25	21	26	25	23	14	10	188	343 33
8	Dan McDown.....	5	.....	18	18	18	26	21	26	24	23	17	11	207	411 90
8	Alex. McDonald...	5	.....	3	18	18	26	21	26	24	23	17	11	192	374 74
17	Ronald McDown...	5	23	17	19	17	25	21	26	25	23	14	10	204½	368 89
														963	1,977 76
Average, per day .....															2 00
36	Wm. Grant.....	5	.....	2	17	17	26	20	26	25	23	17	11	189	298 98
31	Angus McLeod.....	5	.....	3	18	18	25	18	19	25	19	15	8	173	299 86
11	Alex. McGilvey....	5	.....	11	19	17	24	20	25	25	23	16	10	195	293 27
12	John McAug.....	5	.....	2	18	16	19	18	19	23	19	14	5	158	237 40
29	Allan McIntyre....	5	.....	3	18	18	25	21	26	24	23	17	4	184	263 29
														899	1,392 80
Average, per day .....															1 52

J. R. BLACKETT, accountant, Caledonia Coal Company, sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am accountant for the Caledonia Coal and Railway Company, and bookkeeper, and paymaster.

Q. How long have you been in that employ? A. For about 9 years.

Q. Can you tell us the number of men employed by the concern? A. The number varies at different seasons of the year; we have, during the summer months an average of 150 cutters; the average for the whole season would be 122; that is for 10 months. During the months of January and February the cutters do very little if any work. We work for 10 months.

Q. Could you give us the aggregate pay received by the men for the 10 months? A. I can give you a fair average. In doing that I may say that there is a difference in the pay of different men; they work by contract and some make a great deal more than other. I would say taking the aggregate earnings of one of our best cutters, who makes the largest pay, that it amounts to \$460. Taking the aggregate pay of an inferior cutter, who makes the smallest pay, it aggregates \$290. These are about the two extremes. I don't know that \$460 is the largest aggregate, but it is one of the largest. The average monthly pay of all the cutters during the summer, taking large and small together, is \$42. All taxes come off that. The average for the 10 months would be \$28 gross. Taking the average pay of the cutters for the whole season the same difference exists between the average per day of the different cutters. Some of them would be larger than others but the figures I have given would be a fair average. They would average \$1.85 per day gross.

Q. Do any of your employés have houses of their own? A. Yes.

Q. The company owns houses which it rents to employés? A. Yes.

Q. Do many of the employés live in them? A. Yes; the majority of them.

Q. What rent do you charge for the houses? A. We charge from 75 cents to \$1.50.

Q. Is \$1.50 the highest? A. Yes.

Q. How many rooms would there be in the 75 cent houses? A. I think there would three.

Q. The \$1.50 ones, what would they be? A. I am not prepared to say just how many rooms are in them.

Q. Is any person employed to see after the sanitary condition of the buildings? A. No; there is no person whose special duty it is.

Q. Have you a carpenter attached to the works? A. Yes; we have several of them.

Q. Do they look after the repairs? A. Yes.

Q. It is no one's duty to look after the sanitary condition of the houses? A. There is no person specially appointed for that purpose, but there is a general supervision by the manager if any case requiring attention is brought to his notice.

Q. Are there any of the men permanently employed in the works who have houses of their own? A. Yes; a number.

Q. Does the company sell land or lease it to the employés? A. The company has sold a few lots within a few years but not many.

Q. What does the company charge per acre or per lot? A. I cannot say positively; some lots are being negotiated for at the present time. I would say the price is small; the land is not valued very highly.

Q. Does the company discriminate between men who own houses of their own and those who live in the company's houses, in giving employment? A. Yes; those living in the company's houses, as a rule, are preferred. They are on the ground the year round. Those who own houses are some distance from the colliery, and do not share in the work to the same extent in winter.

Q. Can you tell us how large the taxes of the company for all purposes were last year? A. They were something in the vicinity of \$1,200. It was over \$1,100. That is what it was last year. The assessments, of course, for different years vary.

Q. What is the assessed value of the property? A. \$55,000.

Q. Do you have a doctor in connection with the works? A. We have.

Q. How much do you charge the men, or do you charge them anything? A. The heads of families pay 40 cents a month, and single men 30 cents a month down to a certain limit. The boys earning less than 50 cents a day do not pay any doctor's fee.

Q. Do you charge your employés a school tax? A. We charge all those getting a man's pay a school tax.

Q. How large is the charge? A. It is 15 cents a month while they are working. There is no back fee for doctor collected from single men.

Q. Does the district furnish the books and other school utensils to the children? A. I think not. I think the parents have to supply the books.

Q. Can you tell us how many days your men worked last year? A. The pit worked 183 days, if I remember correctly.

Q. Could you give us the entire amount of money paid to the coal cutters during that time? A. No; I have given the average, but I could not give the aggregate.

Q. What do you pay per ton for cutting coal? A. There are several rates; the best of the cutting rates is 35 cents a ton for rooms. In addition to that they sometimes work pillars for which they get 30 cents a ton. The rates are also affected by the difference which exists in different parts of the pit; for instance we pay for some rooms as high as 37 cents a ton in the summer time. There is a consideration given for difficult places. I could not say off-hand what the average rate is, but it would be between 33 and 36 cents. We do not pay as high as 37 cents in many places.



Q. Have you a system of fining in your mine? A. No; we have no regular system of fining.

Q. Do you fine the men for tubs that come up with dirt in them? A. At present we have no such regulation.

Q. Has there ever been a strike since you have been connected with the mine? A. No.

Q. Can you give us the age of the youngest boy employed in your mine? A. So far as I know the youngest would be 13 years of age.

Q. Do you ever enquire whether the boys can read or write? A. The question may be frequently asked, but it is not laid down as a rule that it shall be done; it is not regarded as necessary.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Is it your opinion that there are very few boys employed who cannot read and write? A. I think the majority of them can read and write. In the winter months they frequently attend school.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Do you supply coal to the miners? A. Yes.

Q. What is the charge? A. It is 25 cents for slack, and for round coal 50 cents. We haul it for that.

Q. Have you a store in connection with the mine? A. We have.

Q. Do the men deal in it? A. Yes; to a large extent. The majority of men who work there deal in the store.

Q. Are there many of the miners who over-run their accounts? A. In the winter months they frequently get behind hand.

Q. Does the company often lose money through them? A. The loss has not been great since I have been there. We have lost some.

Q. Do you put each man on a limit as to how much goods he is to get? A. We sometimes limit the supplies. We exercise the same prudence in that respect that any ordinary dealer would.

Q. Do you discriminate between persons seeking employment as between persons who deal with you and those who do not? A. There are a number of men working all the year round pretty much who do not deal at all with us. And there are a number of men who deal only slightly with us, who are employed on the same footing with those who deal altogether with us.

Q. What are the habits of the men, generally speaking? A. They compare favorably with men in other districts.

Q. Are they sober? A. Generally speaking.

Q. You heard the evidence of Mr. Kimber in reference to the railway from Sydney to Louisbourg, what do you think of that? A. I have not given the matter consideration, and am not competent to give an opinion that would be of value; I would prefer not to answer that. With reference to the men at the colliery, during my employment there, and the relations between the men and the management, so far as I am aware, the best of good feeling has prevailed. My own connection with them has been of a very agreeable nature. I would like also to endorse the opinion expressed by previous witnesses with reference to the sale of intoxicating liquors. My opinion is that it would be one of the greatest boons that could be conferred on the district if a law could be enacted and enforced to prevent the sale of liquor in the district.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Can you tell us the amount assessed for school purposes on the company? A. The amount for this year is something over \$400. I don't remember the sum for last year. In reference to the prices charged in the store, we charge for flour \$6.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What brand is the flour? A. It is good quality; I use it myself, and I consider it good.

Q. How much have you been charging during the winter? A. We have been charging \$6 all winter long. Those were the instructions given to the store-keeper.

Q. Is it a superfine flour? A. It is fully entitled to that term.

Q. What is the brand on the barrel? A. "Dandy."

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What is the price that you charge for tea? A. We charge 35 cents.

Q. What is the charge for sugar? A. From 8 to 10 cents a pound; not over 10. Granulated is the highest grade we handle.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What do you charge for that? A. 10 cents.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What do you charge for molasses? A. 50 cents the Imperial gallon.

Q. How does butter sell? A. In small quantities I think for about 22 cents; butter at present is very scarce in the district. A few weeks ago, to accommodate our men I bought half a tub of butter at Cow Bay, seven miles or more from here and trucked it over. I paid in cash for it 23 cents, and we sold it for, I think, 26 cents. I don't mean to say that we never have more profit than that.

Q. What do you ask for potatoes? A. I would not profess to be very exact, but a fair average price would be 45 to 50 cents a bushel. Last spring, about this time, potatoes in this part of the country were very scarce, and as our men usually plant some they were very anxious to get some. I telegraphed to Montreal asking what they could send a few bags for, and the answer was \$1.10 a bag. I ascertained that a bag contained about a bushel and a half. I referred the matter to the men, and said that it was more than their value, but if they wished it I would send for them, charging only the cost and charges. I sent for them at the request of the men. We did not have to pay quite as much, but the men only paid a very slight advance on the cost. They were a very poor lot.

Q. Is it the intention of the company to sell goods as cheaply as possible? A. The motive for running the store, I presume, is not mere philanthropy. It is a business venture, but the prices, I am satisfied, are not put on with the intention of extorting anything. The evidence I heard with reference to the prices was correct, and the comparison may have been correct. I have no doubt that some of the cash stores sell some lines cheaper.

Q. Is there anything you can add that would be of general interest or advantage to the miners? A. I don't know of anything.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What would you charge for flour in summer? A. If my memory serves me it was \$6.25, and we reduced it to \$6 in the fall.

Q. Where do you buy? A. In Montreal, Halifax, and in the United States.

Q. What is the freight on flour from Montreal to this port? A. I cannot say.

Q. Do you know what it is from Boston? A. I think 50 cents would be a fair average.

Q. That would be Canadian flour bought in bond at Boston? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Of course you buy by the car load? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What do you charge for oatmeal? A. We have none; I think we charge \$6 for it in the winter.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What was it this time last year? A. I don't recollect. I think we are selling flour and meal cheaper now than ever before.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. You are selling flour for \$6 now? A. Yes.

Q. And that was the price all winter? A. Yes.

D. McINTYRE, miner, recalled.

When I came to-day I did not think I would be asked any questions, but I came to make a statement in reference to the figures of goods sold in the company's store and goods sold in the cash store. I said the price of flour in the company's store was \$6.25, but the manager says it is only \$6 so I have brought the clerk's handwriting to substantiate what I said. In 1886 flour at the company's store cost me \$3.33 per half barrel.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. In what month? A. Every month. In 1887 it cost \$6.75 a barrel at one time and \$6.50 a barrel at another time.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Did you buy it by the full barrel? A. Yes.

Q. Have you an account from the company's store showing that? A. Yes. This is it in the clerk's handwriting. On October 13th I got a barrel at \$6.75.

Q. What year was that? A. It was 1886.

Q. What was the quality of the flour? A. The brand was "Dandy." November the 25th I find a half a barrel of flour charged at \$3.25.

Q. What year was that? A. The same year.

Q. On the 16th February I find a half barrel of flour charged at \$3.13.

Q. What year was that? A. It was 1887.

Q. On the 15th December, 1886, I find a half barrel of flour charged \$3.13. A. Yes, that was \$6.25 a barrel. On the 23rd July there is half a barrel of flour charged \$3.13.

Q. What year is that? A. 1887.

Q. In August there is a half barrel of flour charged \$3.13? A. That is the same year.

Q. On the 24th September, 1887, there is a half barrel of flour charged \$2.63? Is that the price you paid do you think? A. I suppose so.

Q. On the 13th October there is a barrel of flour \$6 25? A. That is the last in 1887.

Q. On the 9th November there is a barrel of flour \$6.25? A. The lowest amount is \$6.25, as I stated. It makes no difference about the date. I did not take the dearest article, I took the cheapest, and no other prices can be found on my account book. I am charged at the least \$6.25 a barrel for flour and the manager says he sells it for \$6, so I must be charged 25 cents a barrel too much.

In reference to the stoppage of money in the company's offices I have also a few words to say. They have asked a boarding master to have money coming to a man stopped and put on the boarding master's bill. Lately there was a young fellow that came to work and went to board with his brother. His brother was in debt in the store and at the end of the month they wanted to have the amount coming to the young man that was working stopped and put to his brother's bill. He refused to agree to this and they insisted on getting the money, and when the manager saw that he could not get the board bill from him he put him to it so much that the young man gave him some abuse and the manager worked it so that the young man was discharged. This is where the stoppage could be prevented, and it would be in the interest of the men. They would not be so liable to fall out with the manager.

I was asked some questions about accidents in the pit. I would like to say that at dinner hour there is no engineer there to hoist the men up, and if a man was hurt at dinner hour he could not get out of the mine unless he went up the slope. The slope is in such a condition that no man who is feeble could get up it himself and



the men could not carry him up. In the winter it is all ice ; that is another thing that I wish to say.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Do you know of any accidents occurring there? A. No.

Q. If an accident occurred would the manager remedy it? A. I don't know; but I think the engineer should be there all day.

Q. Do the men complain of this? A. I complain of it.

Q. Do the men find it an inconvenience? A. No accident has ever yet occurred.

Q. Have the men represented to the manager that the matter should be attended to? A. Not that I know of.

Q. Do you know anything about the pay of the laborers? A. I do; I have seen men paid as low as 40 cents a day.

Q. What kind of a man would he be? A. He is a man going on 18.

Q. Did he ever seek employment anywhere else? A. No; his home is in Caledonia, and he would not seek employment in other places.

Q. Are there many men employed at 40 cents a day? A. I don't know, but I think there are more than him.

Q. What is he doing? A. Whatever the boss puts him at—he is working over ground.

Q. Are there many men employed at 40 cents a day? A. I don't know how many there are, but I think there are more than him on that pay.

Q. What taxes would he have to pay? A. I don't think he would have any.

Q. Would he pay the doctor or school? A. I don't think so. I know a man of 21 working over ground and he said all that all he was getting was 60 cents a day, and I believe him.

Q. Is there anything else you have to add with regard to the condition of the mine or the company's houses or anything of that kind? A. No; there is nothing else. I would like to urge the difference in the prices of the company's store and the cash store and the necessity of weekly payment, and the benefit it would be to the men. And again, in reference to the school taxes, you can see the amount that they pay. The men who pay \$3.10 to the company have no say in school business while I who pay less, because I am a ratepayer, have a vote on any question that comes up—so you can see the difference between a miner and a ratepayer. They pay more money but they do not have the same rights.

Q. Do the miners take an interest in the school? A. They take as much interest in it as ratepayers. They have a miner appointed trustee.

Q. You have no objection to pay the school rates? A. We have no objection to paying the lawful rates—we believe that the school should be supported, but we object to paying the 15 cents a month to the company, because we believe they have no claim to collect it.

Q. Do you buy the school books? A. Yes; we buy all the school books.

Q. Do you know whether the generality of the children employed in the mine can read or write? A. I don't know. I went to work when I was 9 years of age and I learnt to read and write a little. There are many who went at my age who cannot read or write. If a person wants to learn of course he can do so.

Q. Were the schools as hasty then? A. There were not as many teachers—the population was not as large then.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Have you anything more that you wish to say? A. I made out an estimate of what a miner would require to live on. I made it out for a man and his wife and four children.

Q. Is that a statement of your own expenses? A. No; I could not live as well as this.

Q. What is your estimate? A. I allow a family of six a half barrel of flour a month; a quarter of a barrel of oatmeal. For tea and coffee I allow \$1. For 15

pounds of butter a month at 20 cents a pound, \$3; 15 pounds of cheese at 15 cents a pound, \$2.25; 3 pounds of meat a day, that costs us about 7 cents a pound all through. Sometimes we can buy it for 4 cents and sometimes it is 14 cents. That would cost \$6.20; 3 bushels of potatoes at 40 cents a bushel would be \$1.20 a month. For peas, beans, rice and turnips, I allow 50 cents; a gallon of molasses would be 40 cents, and 8 pounds of sugar, \$1.04. For fish, I allow 30 cents a month. One quart of milk a day would be \$2 a month. For wear and tear of furniture I allow \$1. Rent and coal would cost \$3.50 a month on an average. The doctor and school would be 35 cents for a man of family. Now, for a man of family you must allow something for societies; I put that at 60 cents. For statute labor we pay \$1 a year, that would be a little over 8 cents a month. The poll tax and county tax would be 11 cents a month. The clergyman would cost 50 cents a month if we did it right. I did not take in clothing. I make it altogether, \$27.27 cents a month, and I do not believe a family can be supported under that amount. Our income is a good deal under that in a year.

CHARLES ARCHIBALD, general manager of Gowrie mines, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What is your position? A. I am general manager of the Gowrie mines.

Q. How many mines does your company operate? A. One; that is the Gowrie mines.

Q. How many men and boys do you employ above and below the ground? A. I cannot say exactly. We have from 100 to 160 cutters. We have two or three shaftsmen—laborers—according to the work. We have 28 drivers and 48 boys underground.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you employ any mechanics? A. Yes; we have blacksmiths, carpenters and engineers.

Q. How many have you altogether? A. We have about 12.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. What do you pay your trappers? A. Forty cents is the lowest.

Q. Do they get more? A. They don't remain trappers long; they get promotion. We pay all the way from 40 cents to \$1 for trappers, couplers, drivers and assistant drivers. The drivers get wages according to the places where they are employed, from 60 cents to \$1.

Q. Do the men cut coal by the ton? A. Yes; altogether.

Q. What do you pay in summer? A. 38 cents for unscreened coal.

Q. In winter time do the men screen the coal? A. No; they send up everything.

Q. Do you pay the same rate in winter? A. No; we pay 31 cents then.

Q. What is the reason of the difference? A. To overcome depreciation and the labor in banking.

Q. Could you give the Commission a statement of the aggregate number of days worked by miners? A. Yes.

Q. Will you do so? A. I will.

Q. Can you make the statement include the aggregate earnings, the days' labor and the deductions for oil, powder and coal? A. It will be difficult to get that up as some of the men work one number of days and some another number. The average wages would be \$2 in summer time and \$1.40 to \$1.50 in winter.

Q. Does the company own any houses? A. Yes; they own nearly all the houses the miners live in.

Q. What rent do you charge? A. We charge 50 cents.

Q. A month? A. A month.

Q. Can you tell us what the cost of those houses has been? A. I should think they would cost \$300 each and they have cost more than the rent in repairs taking one year with another. The rent only covers the insurance.

Q. Do you keep them in a good state of repair? A. Yes; with a few exceptions. There are some of them that I would rather not see there.

Q. Do you supply the miners with coal? A. Yes.

Q. How much do you charge them for it? A. We charge them 20 cents a load for slack and 50 cents a load for round coal—that includes hauling.

Q. How much would there be in a load? A. From 1,500 to 1,700 pounds would be a fair average.

Q. What do the men pay towards the doctor? A. They pay 40 cents for a man with a family and 20 cents a single man.

Q. Do the boys pay anything? A. Yes; from 16 years of age they pay 30 or 20 cents and under that they pay 10 cents. They are never charged unless their names appear on the time book.

Q. That is small boys? A. Yes.

Q. Do you make any collection on account of schools? A. We do.

Q. What is that? A. We charge 30 cents for men with a family and 20 cents for a single man.

Q. Is that collected when they work or is it collected all the time? A. It is collected whenever their name appears on the book, that is pretty much every month.

Q. Is this to meet the school tax assessed on the company? A. No; that is the total payment for school tax. It is an arrangement between the company and the employé. He makes an arrangement to pay that amount when he comes to work and for that his children receive their education and are supplied with books. The men are not obliged to pay the poll tax, as we pay that for them. If there is a man who has a tax and pays an assessment we pay it for him. Our property is assessed and we could not give a man a house for 50 cents a month and keep it insured and in repair and pay the school tax so we have to have something to cover that; but the men do not have to pay the poll tax; we pay that for them. Then the assessors go around and assess our property at its value and everyone in the district whether he is a miner or not—but we pay everything for the men.

Q. You provide the children with books also? A. Yes.

Q. Did you build the school? A. No, it was built by the district. We did build the first school but it was burnt down. It was insured for \$1,200 and the amount of the insurance went toward the erection of the new school.

Q. Does the company buy the school books? A. No; the district supplies them.

Q. Does the company keep a store? A. Yes.

Q. It is kept by the company? A. Yes.

Q. Do you require men to deal there? A. No.

Q. If men declined to deal there and made their purchases elsewhere would they be treated just the same as if they dealt at the store? A. Yes; just the same. I have never said to any man that he should deal there.

Q. Do the majority of men deal at the store? A. No; not when they have money.

Q. When they have money they go elsewhere? A. Yes; to a great extent. The majority of them deal there because they can get as good bargains there as elsewhere, but sometimes they want to spend their money elsewhere, and we never make any difference.

Q. Do you require any notice of the men when they want to leave? A. No; we never get any.

Q. Do you make any deduction from their pay if they leave without notice? A. No.

Q. Must they wait until next pay day for their money? A. We give them a due bill which is paid the next pay day.

Q. What width do you permit a man to cut coal? A. Just as wide as we consider it safe—10 yards is supposed to be the limit.

Q. If they exceed that do you make any deduction from their pay? A. No.



Q. How do you keep them within the limit? A. We have men there to look after them. It does not make any material difference, if they do not go too much out of the way.

Q. You said some of the men own houses—do any considerable number of them own houses? A. No; we have 10 or 12 men who have built houses of their own.

Q. Are those miners? A. Yes; miners.

Q. About what would be the value of those houses? A. They would be all the way from three hundred to five or six hundred dollars. It depends on the finish. They do not finish them very elaborately inside.

Q. Do the men own the land on which the houses are built? A. Yes.

Q. Does the company sell them land? A. Yes; they do not always own the land when they commence, but we do not discourage a man if he wants to build.

Q. What can a man get a lot for? A. I could not say, but I think for from twenty to thirty dollars an acre.

Q. Do they cultivate the land at all? A. Some of them do; but not to any great extent.

Q. They are busy in the mine during the season of cultivation? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What is the total valuation of your property? A. Something over \$50,000; it is under \$60,000.

Q. Do you know the entire taxes you pay on your property including all taxes? A. It is between a thousand dollars and eleven hundred.

Q. Do you ever have any strikes at your mine? A. No.

Q. You never have any difficulty with your men? A. We have had a stoppage of work for a few days but never what I would call a strike.

Q. What is the age of the youngest boy employed in the works? A. We do not take any boys less than 12 years old—that is the limit.

Q. Do you ever enquire whether the boys can read or write? A. If the parents come to me I do. We have a great many applications for work from double the number of boys that we want.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Do you know of men having suffered any loss of wages from the failure of the company's operating mines? A. I don't know. I have heard reports of such, but I am not prepared to answer.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Would more frequent payments be a benefit to the men? A. I don't think so.

Q. What are the habits of your men? A. With a few exceptions they are sober.

Q. Have you been employed in any other mine? A. No.

Q. You think they are average men all over? A. Yes; I have been in mining districts in the States, and I think we have better looking and better men than I have seen elsewhere.

Q. Are your miners principally Nova Scotians? A. They are principally Cape Bretoners.

Q. You have never imported any foreign labor? A. No.

Q. Are your overseers natives? A. Yes; they are all Cape Bretoners. In reference to the temperance question, I think it would be the greatest boom to the workmen if the sale of intoxicating liquors was stopped. I am quite in accord with the last witness in that respect, and I think it is the wish of the workmen as well. In fact they wanted to go further than I could go, and they think it would be the greatest boon that could be conferred upon them.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. And on others besides? A. Yes.

HUGH McDONALD, trimmer, sworn.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. What mine are you in, Mr. McDonald? A. The Glace Bay mine.

Q. At what work are you employed? A. Trimming coal.

Q. About how many days are you employed in the year? A. I don't keep any account of it.

Q. How much do you receive per day? A. I cannot tell exactly now without my books.

Q. Are you paid by the day? A. No; I am paid by the ton.

Q. How much a ton are you paid? A. Five cents is the lowest. I am paid from 5 to 6 cents.

Q. Do you get more in summer than in winter? A. I am not working in winter at all.

Q. You are not able to give a correct idea of the amount of your earnings? A. No.

Q. Are many men employed in trimming coal? A. No; not many, there are ten sometimes or eight.

Q. Do you live in a company's house? A. No; I have a house of my own.

Q. Were you able to buy this house out of the earnings as a miner? A. Yes; I bought it out of my wages.

Q. Do you mind telling how many years it took you to pay for that house? A. It took three years I suppose.

Q. Does the company take anything from your pay for school taxes? A. No; it does not, I am not working with the company at all.

Q. Who pays you? A. I get my pay in the company's office but the captain pays the money.

Q. Do you make your agreement with the captain or with the manager? A. It is made with the manager.

Q. And you get your pay from the manager? A. Yes; from the manager.

Q. Do you hire with the manager of the mine to receive so much per day? A. No; we get whatever we make.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. How long do you have work in the summer? A. We work pretty nearly all through the summer, but the work is not steady.

Q. What do you do when the harbor is closed? A. I have to stay home that time.

Q. Don't you find other employment then? A. I do not ask for it.

Q. When a vessel comes in that will take a thousand tons of coal do you get five cents a ton for trimming it? A. Yes; sometimes.

Q. Are you paid for the full amount the vessel takes? A. I am not sure about that.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. How many hours have you worked without stopping? A. I start at seven o'clock in the morning and work until six o'clock in the evening.

Q. Do you never work all night? A. No; we do not work at night here.

By Mr. HAGGERTY :—

Q. Do you commence to trim the vessel when part of the coal goes in? A. Yes.

Q. How many tons would be on board before you would proceed to trim it? A. It depends on how big she is.

Q. Suppose she takes a thousand tons? A. Well, she may take three or four hundred tons before we would commence.

Q. Do you get paid for the whole? A. Yes.

Q. How many hands are usually employed to trim a vessel? A. From 6 to 8 or 10.

Q. How long will it take to trim a vessel of 1,000 tons? A. Over a day, perhaps two days.

Q. That five cents a ton is divided up among the ten men, is it? A. Yes.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Do you pay the men? A. No.

Q. Does each of the men get five cents a ton? A. No; the five cents a ton is divided among us.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Can you earn \$5 a day at trimming? A. No; nor \$4.

Q. What is the biggest day's pay you have ever earned? A. \$2 or \$2.50; some days it is less and some days more.

Q. You are not paid as much for small vessels? A. Yes; but a small vessel will not take as much coal.

Q. You cannot tell on an average what you would earn? A. No.

Q. Have you any grievance at any time to express that would be of a benefit to you to be made known? A. No.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Are you always paid regularly and in full for the work you do? A. Yes.

By Mr. HAGGERTY :—

Q. Are you satisfied with the arrangement? A. It is the rule here.

Q. Have you ever tried for an increase of pay? A. No.

Q. You are perfectly satisfied with the arrangement? A. I suppose so.

Q. Do the men feel that they are well paid? A. I cannot say for others.

Q. Well speak for yourself? A. I am like the rest.

Q. Are you as well paid as men doing similar work at any other mine? A. I cannot say.

Q. Have you trimmed at any other mine? A. Yes.

Q. Where? At Cow Bay.

Q. What did you get there? A. We were sometimes paid by the day and sometimes we were on shares.

Q. Which do you prefer? A. I prefer the shares.

Q. You do not go to work the same hour every day? A. Yes; about the same.

Q. You never work at night at all? A. No.

By Mr. WALSH :—

Q. Do the crew of the ship take any hand in the work? A. No.

THOMAS LING, trimming superintendent, sworn.

By Mr. HAGGARTY :—

Q. I understand that you are a trimmer? A. I superintend the trimming.

Q. Will you explain the business of the trimmer? A. A trimmer is called to his work at a certain hour every morning and he must be there—he has to work very hard. He does not work very steadily. A big ship will take from 50 to 60 or 70 tons of coal without a great deal of trimming, but afterwards the coal may have to be shifted two or three times.

Q. How many men would it require to trim a ship of 1,000 tons? A. It depends on how fast the coal is coming—it might take 14 men, or if she was a hard ship that number could not do it. We do not load many big ships except steamers.

Q. When you are loading a steamer you have to give your entire attention to her? A. Yes; except a small vessel may come in and we can spare a few men.

Q. Do you use lights? A. Yes; we can use lights all the time.

Q. Who supplies them? A. I do; of course I charge for them.



Q. Do you work at trimming yourself? A. No; I superintend the work.

Q. Is there an inspector to see that the vessel is properly trimmed before she goes to sea? A. No; except myself and the captain.

Q. Do you give her any clearance? A. No; the captain will not leave until she is properly trimmed.

Q. He is the only judge? A. He is the only judge.

Q. Do you receive a percentage or do you receive regular pay? A. We receive four cents a ton and the agent receives one. If the vessel pays six cents a ton we receive five cents and the agent receives one.

Q. You are paid equally with the men? A. Yes; except a man is on wages—I am paid equally with the sharesmen.

Q. Do you live in a company's house? A. No; I live in my own house.

Q. Have you been in any other business? A. Yes; piloting.

Q. When did you give it up? A. I do it still.

Q. Have you anything to suggest to the Commission that may be of benefit to the business of trimming? A. I have nothing to suggest any more than that the men who work for me grumble about the agent having the one cent.

Q. What does he get the cent for? A. I don't know, it was done before I went there. I had nothing to do with it.

Q. Did the men ever make any representations to the agent that it was too much? A. Not that I know of.

Q. Don't you think it would be a step in the right direction to make representations of that sort? A. Of course it would; I often told the men so.

Q. What do they think the agent should receive? A. They think that an equal share with themselves would be enough.

Q. That is if there were ten men on? A. That if they made 40 cents he should receive 40 cents.

Q. You think the amount he receives is too much in proportion to the work? A. Yes; but they are better off here than they are in other mines.

Q. Can you give us an idea how they are paid in other mines? A. Yes; they are paid from \$1.00 to \$1.50, and when they are not trimming they had to work about the wharf. This was at the International mine.

Q. How are they paid at North Sydney? A. I don't know.

Q. In other places you think they have to work about the wharves when they are not trimming? A. They have to do so at the International mine.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do the men here work about the wharves? A. Not except booming the vessels off from the wharf.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Are there any accidents? A. Not anything serious.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Do you work every day? A. Yes; sometimes.

Q. What is the longest time you have worked? A. We have to come at three or four o'clock in the morning sometimes getting a steamer ready for the tide. I think that is right.

Q. What company's agent do you work for? A. The Glace Bay Mining Company's agent.

Q. Is it the agent of the company that gets the cent? A. I don't know whether it is the agent or the company. They keep it.

Q. What service does the agent perform for the amount he receives? A. He collects the money and pays it out.

Q. What number of days are the coal trimmers able to work in the course of a year? A. I think they work about 160 days or near that.

Q. What would be the average days' pay? A. I think the greatest day's pay would be about \$3, and the smallest from 40 to 50 cents.

Q. Would they average \$2 a day? A. No; they would not average that. They will not average over \$1.25 a day. I think that would be very close to it.

Q. What would be the average year's earnings for one of these men? A. I suppose last year was the best year we have had since 1873, and I suppose it would average last year a little over \$300. The years before would not average \$200.

Q. Is the dust very bad in the holds of the vessels? A. Sometimes it is very bad.

Q. Are the men ever compelled to use a sponge to keep the dust out? A. No; there is no time for sponging there.

Q. Can they come on deck for fresh air? A. No; they have to keep on until the vessel is through.

By Mr. GIBSON:—

Q. Is there any danger of the cargo shifting? A. No; when it is trimmed up against the beams it cannot shift.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Is there anything further you can suggest? A. No.

NEIL MCNEILL, miner, Block-house Mines, sworn.

Q. Have you ever worked in a mine or known of a man who has worked in a mine who has lost his wages through the failure of the company operating the mine? A. Yes; I am one of them myself.

Q. How long ago would that be? A. It was in 1885. I have the bills here.

Q. Who made them out? A. The paymaster.

Q. You never got anything for them? A. No; I never got anything.

Q. What action was taken? A. The men continued to work on from month to month in the expectation that they would get their pay.

Q. Is the mine out of existence now? A. No; it is doing a little still. The Local Government sold all the rolling stock.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Did not the Local Government pay the men? A. No.

Q. Should the men not petition the Local Government to pay them? A. I don't know.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Was any action taken by the men to try and get their money? A. Nothing except to go to the manager, who put them off, and to the paymaster from time to time to pay them.

Q. They expected to be able to go on, and the Local Government took possession for the royalty? A. Yes.

Q. For the previous year the Local Government had been receiving royalty? A. Yes.

Q. Was it ever represented to the Local Government that the men should receive their pay? A. It was so stated to the association of the men.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What was said? A. I was not present.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. When did this take place? A. It was in 1885 or 1886.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. You don't know of any further communication? A. No.

Q. Did the men ever have any meeting? A. No; there are hardly any of the men living there now.

Q. Could you give us the total amount due the men when the works suspended? A. No.

Q. How many men were there employed there at that time? A. I cannot rightly tell.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How many were there that the company was indebted to as much as to you? A. I cannot say. There were two at the same job as myself.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Do you think the laboring men should have the first claim in cases of suspension of payment? A. I think so.

Q. The company owns a great deal of land, houses and rolling stock? A. Yes.

Q. That was all seized by the Government? A. Yes; all the rolling stock was seized by the Government.

Mr. F. C. KIMBER recalled.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Do you think the output of coal could be increased if railway facilities were provided? A. I think so very materially.

Q. Will you explain how? A. If the different collieries were connected by rail with Louisbourg which is a winter port we would be able to ship coal when we are at present obliged to lie idle.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. How far is Louisbourg from the nearest point on the new railway—where does the new railway end? A. It ends at Sydney.

Q. How far is Sydney from Louisbourg? A. There is a three foot gauge railway from Sydney to Louisbourg, 33 miles in length, which passes within a few miles of all the principal collieries on this side; it is owned by the company I represent. Only ten miles of the road are in operation at present.

Q. What would be the cost of making a first-class coal road of that road? A. I could not say.

Q. Is the grading sufficient? A. I think with a little expense it could be made a first-class road.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Have you ever laid the matter before the members? A. Yes; we have been agitating it for years.

Q. Has any action been taken? A. No.

Q. If such a road were built would the companies using it provide their own rolling stock? A. That would be a matter of arrangement. As a rule the railway provides the rolling stock, and the delivery of coal at the pits mouth.

Q. Is the harbor ever closed by ice? A. Not often; sometimes it is closed by drift ice.

Q. It would not impede the shipment of coal? A. I think not.

Q. You would be on a par with Spring Hill then? A. More so than at present.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Could you dispose of more coal? A. Yes.

Q. Would it give the miners more constant employment? A. Certainly; it would be a great advantage to all concerned.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Would it be a central point for supplying bunker coal? A. Yes; I think it is one of the finest ports we have.

Q. Would it interfere any with Sydney? A. I think not materially. Steamers going down the Gulf would call at Sydney, but steamers coming from the cotton ports would call at Louisbourg.



By Mr. HAGGERTY :—

Q. The coal that you have to bank now would be shipped during the winter?  
A. Yes.

Q. And you could give the miners better prices? A. Yes.

Q. I suppose it would be impossible for you to compete with Spring Hill over the new road when it is built? A. I am afraid so. Spring Hill has geographical advantages which will put it ahead of Cape Breton as regards the quantity of its output.

By Mr. FREED :—

Q. Have you inexhaustible supplies of coal here? A. Practically so.

Q. Have you anything further that you would like to suggest? A. No; except that I would like to endorse the remarks of the last witness about the temperance question.

C. H. RIGBY recalled.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. What is your impression about this Louisbourg question? A. I think it would be of general benefit to all the collieries in Cape Breton. It should be a Government road or the Government should make some proviso to ensure that other companies have the right to ship over the road at equivalent rates with the company that owns it, but I think it would be preferable if the Government owned it.

Q. Is there anything else you think of? A. I think not. The questions have been pretty well exhausted. In regard to the question of the company's store, I do not think that in any of the cases the men are obliged to spend their earnings in the stores, but I think they can go there or not as they please. We find that the workmen who earns the smallest amount of wages deals in the company's store to the largest extent. The mining population, I think, has improved very much in material condition as compared with five or six years back. They are becoming more provident and more sober. The fact of their building houses and owning land is an evidence of that.

Mr. CHARLES ARCHIBALD recalled.

In reference to the question of fortnightly pay we have no objection to that if it is feasible, but where every pound of coal is weighed it takes three or four days after the thing is worked up to get the information into the offices that is necessary to make up the books, and when you have to make up several hundred accounts it takes us two weeks to do it, although we have men who can work well and rapidly. If I saw it would be to the advantage of the men I would support it notwithstanding, but I cannot see it—even where there is a mine store. I suppose the object is to ascertain whether they would get cheaper goods. We have several stores in Cow Bay besides the mine store and they are all willing to credit the men. We do not charge a man any more in winter than in summer, though we have to give credit from November to July, and there is no advance to cover it. In regard to the married men, it is customary for them, before the first of the month, to get supplies. They get a barrel of flour and other things in considerable quantities. I don't believe that the fortnightly pay would be a benefit to the men while it would give us a great deal of extra labor.

By Mr. KELLY :—

Q. But you would do it if you saw that it would be of a great advantage to the men? A. Yes; if it was an advantage to the men and could be done without any great extra expense to the company I would favor it.

JOHN S. McLENNAN, general manager, International Mines, sworn.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. What is your position? A. I am general manager of the International Mines.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. How long have you been connected with the mine? A. About four years.

Q. Are you managing any other mine? A. No.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. About how many men and boys are employed by your company? A. It varies; when we are busy in the summer, there are about 400, I think, and in the winter a comparatively small number.

Q. About what length of time do you think the mine is in operation during the year? A. How many days? 150 to 180 days would probably cover it.

Q. When it is in operation can all the men find employment if they desire it? A. Certainly.

Q. How many of these men are miners or coal cutters? A. Usually about 180.

Q. Are you able to tell us the average number of days they worked last year?

A. No; I am not the business manager; Mr. Johnston can furnish the details.

Q. Would you or Mr. Johnston be able to tell us the aggregate number of days worked by all the miners, and the aggregate wages earned by them? A. Yes.

Q. If it is not possible to give it now it might be possible to make it up and send it by mail? A. Yes; we will prepare any figures you wish accurately and send them.

Q. How frequently are your men paid? A. Once a month.

Q. Do they get any advance during the month? A. Not as a rule.

Q. Does the company keep a store? A. No.

Q. Does it supply the men with goods of any description? A. No; except powder and oil for those working in the mine; it supplies no goods of any description.

Q. Is any official of the company interested in any store from which the men get goods? A. No; but there is a cooperative store in which some of the officials and the miners about the place have an interest, but it is not in any way connected with the company.

Q. Do the miners largely deal at it? A. To a large extent, I believe.

Q. Has it been a financial success? A. I believe it has. They are putting up a new building and they commenced with very little. The last time I heard the figures it had been a financial success.

Q. Do they sell goods at the same prices charged by other dealers? A. Yes; about the same.

Q. The advantage to the men is in getting a share of the profits? A. Yes; the advantage is in the division of the profits. I have a few shares in it myself, and so on through the company. We are all interested in it, but not as officials.

Q. Is any pressure brought to bear upon the men to oblige them to deal at that store? A. Not as far as I know. I would not permit it.

Q. There is no pressure; it makes no difference about the work? A. Not the slightest.

Q. Does your company own any houses? A. Yes; quite a number.

Q. What is the rent of them? A. I don't know.

Q. Do you know whether any of the men own houses? A. Yes; quite a number of them own houses in the neighborhood.

Q. Can you give us an idea of the number? A. No.

Q. What do the men pay towards the doctor monthly? A. I am not quite sure. There are many of these matters that I am not familiar with, but Mr. Johnston will be able to give you any information.

Q. Do you know whether there is any black list, kept by any official of the company, of objectionable men, or men assumed to be such? A. I don't know of any.

Q. Do you know if the names of any men—for example, men who have been prominent in labor movements—have been sent to other companies? A. I have never heard of such a list.

Q. Have you ever been requested to discharge men on account of any part that they have taken in connection with labor organizations? A. Never. In relation to the blacklist there are men that we would not employ.

Q. For what reason? A. For a variety of reasons. There are men that we would not care to have in our employment.

Q. Is it because of their objectionable character, or because they have taken an active part in the formation of labor organizations? A. Purely for the first reason.

Q. Do you object to employing men who belong to labor organizations? A. Not at all.

Q. Do you ever ask the question? A. No.

Q. If you knew of men belonging to labor organizations, would they be treated differently from those who are not members? A. I think the impression is that they are better treated; there certainly would be no objection to them.

Q. What is the valuation placed on your mines by the assessors? A. About \$65,000.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. Do you think that if railway connection were made with Louisbourg it would give employment to the mine longer during the winter? A. I think it would make no material difference, because there is no market to the south of us at present.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Did you ever have a strike in your mine? A. Not since I have been there.

Q. You have small boys employed in your mine? A. Yes.

Q. What is the age of the youngest? A. There is a minimum fixed by law.

Q. Do you supply coal to the men? A. Yes.

Q. What do you charge them for it? A. The charge is 25 cents delivered at their houses. That is about 50 cents a ton.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. That would be slack coal I suppose? A. Yes.

Q. If they desire to have round coal they can get it at a higher price? A. Yes; 40 cents a load is the price for round coal.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What are the habits of the men, generally speaking? A. Generally speaking, they are very well conducted. Of course there are exceptions, but on the whole they are very well conducted.

Q. Are the majority of your men Cape Bretoners? A. Yes; almost exclusively.

By Mr. HAGGERTY:—

Q. You never import any foreign labor? A. No; the supply has always been equal to the demand. There are a number of men permanently connected with the colliery who come in in the summer and go away in the fall when the work gets slack.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. You say the co-operative store is a stock company, will you explain how it is managed? A. I have never taken an active part in it. Some of the men might explain it better than I can. There is a board of managers who regulate or control the affairs of the store.

Q. While you are a stockholder in the society or store, and while you are manager of the mines, you have never taken any step as to who shall be the directors of the store? A. I really do not know who they are. I thought if the store was



established it would be a good thing for the men, because they would get more for their money, and it would promote habits of economy and foresight, and I was very anxious to encourage it in that way. I have accordingly done what I could for it without doing any injustice to any one. I took the stock purely on that ground.

PRESCOTT JOHNSTON, agent or manager of the International Company Mine, sworn.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am agent or manager of the mine here.

Q. How long have you been connected with the mine as agent? A. For about four years.

Q. Had you ever been agent or manager of any other mine previously? A. No; I was on this mine for four years previously.

Q. Can you give us any information in relation to the aggregate wages received by the cutters? A. I would prefer to take it off the books.

Q. How many miners live in the houses owned by the company? A. We have about 86 houses of our own, and we rent some at an old mine that is not working, about three miles from here. There are 86 or 90 families here, and 13 or 14 at the Greener Mine.

Q. What are the usual charges for the houses? A. We charge \$1.50 a month for a plastered house, and \$1 for a ceiled one.

Q. A month? A. Yes.

Q. How many rooms would there be in them? A. They vary. There is a large kitchen and a room, or sometimes two small rooms on the first floor, and upstairs they can be divided into two.

Q. Could you give us any idea about the co-operative store? A. No; I am not interested in it.

Q. Do you know the amount paid by the company for school tax? A. I forget the exact amount; it is quite large; it was \$1,100 odd dollars, I think, last year.

Q. Do you charge the men a school tax? A. Yes; we charge them 30 cents a month.

Q. Do they pay a tax separate and distinct from that? A. No; there was a poll tax which we have assumed.

Q. Do you furnish the school books? A. No; the miners have to do that.

Q. What is the scale of prices charged; do you charge a boy anything? A. Yes; anyone who works has to pay.

Q. Suppose a boy goes in as a trapper, what does he pay? A. He pays the same as the men, 30 cents a month.

Q. Suppose a man has a family of two or three boys? A. If they were working all would have to pay, but if he had a family of 7 or 8 girls he would pay no more. Everyone who is on the books pays the amount.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. About how many persons have you on the books? A. It varies from 400 to 500 in the summer time.

Q. What do you pay men per ton for cutting coal? A. It is according to the height. For 6 feet and upwards we pay 38 cents a ton; we pay from 41 to 43 cents according to the depth of the seam; there is also a difference according as the seam is harder or more difficult to cut.

Q. Is there a doctor in connection with the company? A. There is.

Q. How is he paid? A. The married men pay 40 cents a month, and the single men and boys pay 30 cents a month; that is with attendance and medicine.

Q. Does he charge anything extra for cases of childbirth? A. Yes; that is \$4 extra.

Q. Suppose a vacancy or death of the doctor occurs, how is his successor appointed? A. There has never been a vacancy since I have been here; the appointment is generally made by an agreement with the men.

Q. You think you would consult the men? A. Yes; they would probably say they knew some one.

Q. Have you ever known any discrimination between the men who live in your houses and the men who own houses of their own in giving employment? A. Not the slightest.

Q. Have you a system of fining in your mine? A. The only fine I know of is when a man sends up bad coal; we check it.

Q. How are the fines imposed in that case? A. I think they lose part of the tub of coal. It is very seldom that it occurs.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Can you give us the number of tubs checked? A. No.

Q. Is there no man who keeps a correct account of it? A. No; very little of it is ever checked.

Q. How young is the smallest boy you have? A. He should be 13 years or over; we always ask a boy his age when he comes in, and if he is under age we do not employ him.

Q. Do you ever ask whether he can read or write? A. No.

Q. Do accidents happen often in the mine? A. No; we have been singularly free from them. A man may get his foot twisted or his fingers hurt, but we have had no serious accidents.

Q. You have had no explosions or anything of that kind? A. There was a slight one about a month ago. Two boys went into a place where they had no right to go, and there was a slight explosion which burnt their faces. They are out now.

Q. Does the company pay any expenses during the time that men who may be hurt may be confined to the house? A. No.

Q. Is there any benefit society or anything of that kind connected with the mine? A. No.

Q. If the men subscribed to such a society would the company be willing to subscribe also? A. Yes; I am sure of it.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. The school tax received by the company from the men, does it equal the amount for which the company are assessed for school purposes? A. No; not by a long amount.

Q. What is the proportion made up by the assessment on the men? A. I cannot tell without reference to the books.

Q. Can you tell after referring to the books? A. Yes.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Suppose a man owns a property of his own and he is assessed for a school tax by the assessors, do you still assess him? A. We do; it is the rule of the company.

Q. Then he pays a double tax? A. Yes.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Do you know of any list kept of objectionable men, or of men supposed to be objectionable? A. Not the slightest. There is none kept in the office.

Q. Have you been requested to discharge men because of their interesting themselves in labor organizations? A. Never.

Q. Have you sent the names of such men to other companies? A. Never.

Q. Do you know of any black list at all in connection with this mine? A. No.

Q. Have you any objection to employing men because of their activity in promoting labor organizations? A. Not the slightest.

Q. Do you know of any such men? A. I know of some.

Q. Do you know if any of your men have money in the savings bank? A. I don't think they can have much.

Q. As a rule during the winter do the men fall behind hand in the stores? A. I think they do.

Q. Do the stores collect any money from the company? A. One store does; the men give orders and we cash them at the end of the month.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. Is that the co-operative store? A. No; that is the cash store.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. Are any of the members of the company interested in the store from which the orders come? A. No; neither directly nor indirectly. I don't mean that we would not accept orders from any other store.

Q. What notice do you require from men who leave? A. None.

Q. If a man leaves without notice does he get the full amount of his pay? A. Yes; we give him a due bill payable on the 15th of the month.

Q. Are the men paid for all the coal they cut, slack and round as well? A. Yes; they are paid for everything that comes up, the run of the mine as we call it.

Q. You do not check men for anything but stone or dirt? A. No; except a man sends up a tub all full of slack. That is not often.

Q. Are the men paid the same summer and winter? A. No; we pay 7 cents a ton less for banking than our summer rates.

Q. But the coal is sent up in the same way? A. Yes; but we do not get the same for the coal. We have to bank it in the winter, whereas in the summer it goes right into the cars.

#### THE INTERNATIONAL COAL COMPANY (LIMITED).

MINES OFFICE, SYDNEY, CAPE BRETON, 28th April, 1888.

MICHAEL WALSH, Esq., Labor Commissioner,  
St. John, N. B.

DEAR SIR,—I now beg to submit the following replies to the questions put to me yesterday.

1st Question, reply.—Totals days work for all miners for 1887 eight thousand and three hundred and seventeen days.

2nd Question, reply.—Total wages paid to such miners \$48,376.03.

3rd Question, reply.—Deductions for oil, powder, doctor and school: oil \$154.40, powder \$2,110.67, doctor \$1,182.63, school \$1,006.20.

4th. Question, reply.—Amount of tax for schools assessed upon the Company \$1,150.04.

Excess between amount of school tax paid by the company and that collected from employés.

Paid by the company.....	\$1,150 04
Collected from employés.....	1,006 20

Difference paid by company.....	\$143 84
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As we understand the word "miner" here it means one who cuts coal. I mention this in order to avoid any misunderstanding, for while we have paid to our cutters \$48,376.03 we have disbursed as a total for wages during 1887 \$92,235.02.

Bear in mind that it is not at all compulsory for miners to deal with us for oil and powder; in fact our oil not being good last year most of them now get it at the stores.

I forgot to mention yesterday that we make a concession to our men, which I am not aware is done at any other mine, viz., that during the months of January, February and March we only collect half rates of rental from men, and that any



off taxes which may have accrued during these months is not collected until shipping has fully commenced and work is brisk, even then it is divided up into payments of two months and in some cases three.

Trusting these explanations may prove satisfactory.

I remain yours truly,  
 PRESCOTT JOHNSTON,  
*Agent, International Coal Company (Limited).*

JOHN CADDIGAN, miner, sworn.

By Mr. FREED:—

Q. You are interested in this co-operative store? A. Yes.

Q. How long has it been in existence? A. I judge about three years.

Q. What amount of stock is held in it? A. I cannot say exactly, but I think the capital invested runs up to \$5,000, more or less.

Q. Do you know how many individual stockholders there are? A. I cannot say exactly, but I think between 80 and 90.

Q. How many of those are officials of the company? A. I think all the officials of the company with the exception of Mr. Johnston, are more or less connected with it. That is as shareholders.

Q. Have they a large amount of stock or is the bulk of it owned by the miners? A. Some of them are large shareholders and others not so large.

Q. Do the officials hold as much stock as all the miners? A. Oh, not at all. There are miners who hold as much stock as officials and more than some of them.

Q. Has the store been a success financially? A. Yes; very successful.

Q. What dividends have been declared? A. There have been different dividends on different occasions.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q. What is the amount? A. There were dividends to the amount of 16 per cent. and dividends to the amount of 14 per cent. There was a dividend to the amount of 12 per cent., and I think the first dividend declared was 22 per cent. The directors in that term did the work themselves and had no hired man.

Q. In addition to declaring dividends have any profits gone into the general operations of the store, or do you keep the capital the same? A. We add the dividends to the capital at the half yearly meeting.

Q. Have no cash dividends been declared? A. Not as yet. That lies with the members.

Q. Do you sell for cash only? A. Yes; except to members. When a man becomes a member, whatever amount of shares he wants to take he pays in cash for. \$5 is counted a share. The rule then is to give him goods to the amount of \$4 a share which leaves a dollar that he cannot draw, to guard the store against loss.

Q. If a man should fail to pay his bill at the proper time would his stock be forfeited? A. The rule of the company is that when a man allows his bill to run three months he is notified. If he pays up his account he draws his money out.

Q. Do you buy for cash or do you get credit from the wholesale dealers? A. That is according as it is to our advantage. Some merchants sell at thirty days and others at six months; if we have cash we meet the bills inside the time and get a discount.

Q. Is the business increasing? A. Yes; if I remember aright the first amount invested was \$950. Now there is between \$4,000 and \$5,000. I cannot swear to the exact amount.

By Mr. KELLY:—

Q. Of late years have many new members gone into the store? A. Yes; some new ones are going in every year. I cannot say whether any have gone in since the first of this year, but some went in last summer.

Q. How are the officers elected? A. The company meets and elects a secretary, treasurer and a president.

Q. The stockholders? A. Yes; they elect directors also.

Q. They have the election directly of all these officers? A. Yes.

Q. They have the board of directors simply to see that things go straight? A. They do the business for the company; they buy the goods and hire the salesman who sells the goods, and they see to all the transactions.

Q. Would it not be beneficial to all the miners as far as possible to join the store? A. I think it would.

I, as an officer of the Workman's Association, would be most happy to endorse the sentiments of the different agents of the various collieries as regards the suspension of the liquor traffic. I would say that I am in a position to say that it would benefit the workmen if there was a law prohibiting the sale of liquor within three or four miles of any colliery, and if it came to a vote the miners would vote for prohibition of the traffic altogether. I am sure it would be very beneficial to the workmen if liquor was prevented from being sold within three or even five miles of a mine.





# ANALYSIS OF EVIDENCE

## TAKEN IN THE

# PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA

## BEFORE THE

## ROYAL COMMISSION ON LABOR.

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ALLISON, J. W., of *John P. Mott & Co., Soap Manufacturers, Dartmouth.*

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- 162** Through competition from all portions of the Dominion, especially in soaps, firm's profits have diminished during last five years. Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland generally their market. Chocolate trade has increased steadily of late years, owing chiefly to increased consumption of that article throughout the Dominion. Candles have gone back completely. Firm manufactures cheap candles, principally for mining purposes. About twenty
- 163** men and ten women average daily employed. Soap-boilers get \$9 a week for sixty hours and box-makers \$8. Women average \$3 for fifty-four hours in the spice department or as wrappers. Youngest girl about fifteen. Work steady the year round, and there is neither over-time nor night-work. Wages paid weekly, on Saturdays. The women's closets are in the press-room; men go out-doors.

ALNER, GEORGE, *Employé in Weaving-room, Halifax Cotton Mill.*

- 131** Has worked about a year, and earns \$2.50, by bringing material to the weavers. There are 150 boys in the room and some girls, the youngest being about ten years of age. Has never seen any of the girls whipped; they are well treated. He finds the hours pretty long and gets tired before night. Has never been fined; can read and write, having gone to school for eight years. Many of the children eat their meals in the room they work in. Over-time, which is only for an hour or two on Saturday afternoon, is paid for.

ANDERSON, J. M., *Printer, Halifax.*

- 112** Book and job and piece hand. Job hands get from \$9 to \$11 a week for ten hours a day—\$9 being the scale fixed by the organization. Night work is paid for at the rate of 25 cents an hour. Many of the job hands have left the city, the Dominion railway, Custom house, post office, and electoral lists printing having been removed. If the post office work were done here wages would be \$10 instead of \$9, although the day scale two or three years ago was only \$8. No labor troubles lately. Both job and newspaper hands consider the organization a benefit, as to some extent it keeps up wages. Very few printers from the States stay long in Halifax, wages here not being so high. Exodus from here to the States not perceptible.

ARCHIBALD, CHARLES, *General Manager, Gowrie Mines, New Glasgow*

- 470** Employs from 100 to 160 cutters, two or three shaftsmen (laborers), twenty-eight drivers and forty-eight boys underground, and about twelve blacksmiths, carpenters and engineers. Forty cents is the lowest pay to trappers, up to \$1 for trappers, couplers, drivers and assistant drivers.

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- 471 Thirty-eight cents a ton for cutting coal (unscreened); in winter 31 cents; average wages being \$2 in summer and \$1.40 to \$1.50 in winter. Company owns nearly all the houses the miners live in at 50 cents a month, are kept in good repair, and cost \$300 each. Rent only covers insurance. Coal is supplied miners at 20 cents a load for slack and 50 cents for round, including hauling. Men pay 40 cents for doctor's fee, single men 30 cents; boys from sixteen pay 30 or 20 cents, small boys 10 cents. Men with families are charged 30 cents and single men 20 cents, on account of schools, which is collected when name appears on book. Poll-tax not obligatory; company pays it. Children are provided by the district with books, which also builds the schools. Company have a store, but men are not obliged to deal there; majority do not when they have money. No notice of leaving required and due bill given for amount due. Ten or twelve men own houses valued at from \$300 to \$500 or \$600, owning the land they are built on. Company sells land at from \$20 to \$30 an acre, and its property is assessed at \$50,000 or \$60,000; entire taxes between \$1,000 and \$1,100. Boys under twelve not taken. Does not think more frequent payments would benefit men. With few exceptions men are sober, and he considers that if sale of liquor were stopped it would be a boon to them. The difficulty in regard to fortnightly pay is that, as every pound of coal has to be weighed, it takes three or four days to get the information necessary for making up the books; and then to make up several hundred accounts takes two weeks. Thinks the clerks work well and rapidly. Does not believe that fortnightly pay would benefit the men, and only objects to it on the ground of extra labor and expense to the company. Other stores in Cow Bay will credit the men, and at the company's store they are charged no more in winter than in summer, though credit has to be given them from November to July.

ARCHIBALD, LEWIS, *Baker, Halifax.*

- 179 Is president of the Bakers' Union, and works at both the cracker and soft-bread branches. Soft bread shops begin at 3 or 4 in the morning but the closing hour varies. One bakery, when employer had a contract, always worked from 2:30 and 3 a.m. till 11 and 12 at night; another always works from 4 a.m. till 4 p.m. The society rate for bakers is \$8 a week; foremen range \$10, the extreme being \$12 and \$9. Present Union has existed for eight or nine years, but wages have not increased nor has the hours for beginning work; 3 or 3:30 a.m. has been altered in some shops since the first strike. Sick and death benefits are given by the union. The men have gained nothing by striking, although bakers are insufficiently paid in comparison with other skilled workmen. No journeymen baker in Halifax owns his dwelling. No indentured apprentices, and a small boy can become a good journeyman in four years, or perhaps in less. Soft bread-baking is too heavy for boys under sixteen or seventeen. Work might begin at 5 a.m. with no public inconvenience. Men could work better if, after making the dough, they went to their breakfast. If the workmen and employers would act together wages might be raised without increasing the price of bread. At present, if one man advertises cheap bread the other shops can only compete with him by having as cheap labor and long hours. Has been no bread weigher in Halifax since Confederation, the Dominion authorities, who now regulate such matters, not having appointed one. Before Confederation the City Council appointed a bread weigher or inspector. Cracker-making is a wholesome business, if the bake-houses are ventilated, as they generally are. There is no good reason for cleaning the rollers while in motion, and no foreman knowing his business will set a boy without experience to do such

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- 181** work. Cleaning can be done by taking off the belt and turning with a hand. If a hand gets caught it will usually take about five minutes to stop the machinery and release it. With a break it can be done quicker. Bakery engines are usually of twenty-two horse power and are steam, not gas. Engineers are not certificated.

ARMOUR, WALLACE, *Pattern-maker, Robb & Co., Amherst.*

- 332** Employed over two years. Is paid 20 cents an hour—ten hours a day. Constant employment. One and a-half time for night-work. Never had any trouble with employers.

**333**

BAKER, THOMAS, *Employé, Mayflower Tobacco Factory, Halifax.*

- 68** Is fifteen years old, and has worked over three years in the factory, beginning at \$1.50; he now gets \$4 weekly. When he entered there were some boys and girls younger than he, and his age was not asked. Work not too heavy, and has no fault to find. The boys are never beaten, and he knows of none being fined for being late. No boys as young as twelve in the factory now, and youngest girl is about fourteen. Went to school for three years and can read and write a little, but does not know any boys in the factory that can do so. Boys, but not the girls, are searched on leaving. His hours are from 7:30 to 6:30, with an hour for dinner. On Saturday he leaves about 5 or 5:30.

BARRY, JOHN L., *Chief City Assessor, Halifax.*

- 48** Rate this year \$1.33 per \$100, including city, poor, county and school rates. No income-tax. Furniture and all personal property over \$200 is assessed; below that sum is exempt, so that few mechanics pay taxes on their furniture and tools.

**49**

BATES, JOHN, *Puddler, Londonderry Iron Works.*

- 247** Works in various departments. Has been in employ of concern for twenty-five years, more or less. Cannot give average hours of work per day, nor how much per ton he receives for puddling. Wages of helpers paid by company out of puddlers' wages—one-third. Thinks payment once a fortnight would be more satisfactory, and does not think he is well paid.
- 248** The difference of price paid now and fifteen years ago is \$1.50 to \$2 per ton with cost of living more. Lives in his own house. Flour is cheap enough, but other necessities are higher than fifteen years ago. Monthly earnings average \$45, \$50, \$55, and perhaps \$60 for himself—about \$50 a fair average. Thinks wages in United States something like \$1 higher per ton, with cost of living something higher. He believes men are paid about \$2 per ton.

BEAMISH, CHARLES, *Baker, Halifax.*

- 168** Has worked in Halifax as a soft-bread baker for the last twelve years, hours being from 3 a.m. to 6 or 7 p.m.; and occasionally to 8 or 9 p.m. Is getting \$6 a week. No extra pay for extra time, or any deduction if a man leaves at 4 p.m. Three or four men in the shop get \$7 a week. No labor troubles.
- 169** Every Sunday at 4 o'clock the men set the sponge, which takes about an hour. They are paid weekly. Is married and has a family. In Boston has earned as much with board as he does now without it.

BEATTIE GEORGE, *Employé N. S. Glass Works, New Glasgow.*

- 398** Re-heats glass after being pressed. Employed since 1881, entering between fourteen and fifteen years old. Gets 80 cents a day wages; commenced at 42 cents; works from seven to eight and a-half hours a day. About eight boys are employed at same work. He boards with his aunt and pays what



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he likes. Is paid every week, two days being kept off. There are some boys about twelve; one of twelve and the rest fourteen. Sanitary condition and closets good; separate closet for women. Generally two months out of work in summer.

BIRKENHEAD, WILLIAM, *Bricklayer, Halifax.*

- 183** Gets 25 cents an hour; a few men get more, others less. The majority of bricklayers and masons in Halifax do not make five full months of work in the year, and some not more than four months, at 25 cents an hour, a rate of wages insufficient to support a family. The men are looking for 30 cents. A contractor, two years ago, refused to give it, and imported mechanics under contract from the old country, which is being done to-day, though nearly all the men then imported returned home. Most of them are citizens of Halifax and married men; but very few own houses. Some have had to go to the States to make a living. Has worked eighteen years off and on in Halifax.

BERRIGAN, RICHARD, *Baker, Halifax.*

- 175** Has been a biscuit-baker for seven or eight years, and works from 7 in the morning until 6 at night, and earns \$5.50 a week, being lower wages than any other man in the shop, or than anyone he knows of who has worked as long at the trade as himself. Other men receive \$6 to \$7. No girls work at biscuit making; young boys do the packing, and one or two have been hurt by getting their hands in the rollers. The machinery is not dangerous if they take care of themselves. Is paid according to value of his services.

BLACKETT, J. R., *Accountant, Caledonia Coal Co., Little Glace Bay.*

- 464** Been employed about nine years. Number of hands during summer average 150 cutters; for whole season of ten months, 122. Average of best cutter \$460 a year, and smallest pay to inferior cutter \$290; average monthly pay of all cutters during summer is \$42. All taxes come off. Gross per month, \$28; average \$1.85 per day. Some employes own houses, but company own houses in which majority of them live. Rent for three rooms, 75 cents; cannot say how many rooms in \$1.50 houses. One person to look after sanitary condition; carpenters look after repairs. Company has sold a few lots; last few years not many; price low; land not valued highly. Men owning houses and those living in company's houses are discriminated; company's preferred being on the spot. Taxes of company, \$1,200; assessed value of property, \$55,000. A doctor is in connection with works, the company charging 40 cents a month to married men and 30 cents to single men; boys earning less than 50 cents a day are not charged. All getting men's pay are charged 15 cents per month school-tax while working. Thinks parents supply books. Best cutting rates, 35 cents a ton; working pillars, 30 cents; a consideration given for difficult places; average between 33 and 36 cents. No regular system of fining, and, as far as he knows, no fine for dirt in coal. Youngest boy employed is thirteen. Coal is supplied miners at 25 cents for slack, and for round 50 cents, hauling included. In connection with mine is a store, and men deal there largely in winter months, often getting behind hand. Do not lose much, and sometimes limit supplies, as ordinary dealers. Generally speaking men are sober, and one of the greatest boons would be to prevent the sale of liquor in the district.
- 466** Company is assessed \$400 for school taxes this year. Flour, "Dandy" brand, at store, \$6; same all winter. In summer it was \$6.25. Tea, 35 cents per lb; sugar, 8 to 10 cents; granulated, 10; molasses, 50 cents Imperial gallon; butter (small quantities), 22 cents. Has bought butter
- 467**

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for 23 cents cash, and sold it for 26 cents to accommodate men. Does not mean to say never had more profit than that. Average price of potatoes 45 cents to 50 cents a bushel. Oatmeal, \$6 in winter. Flour and meal cheaper now than this time last year, or ever before. Running store is not philanthropic, and has no doubt some stores sell some things cheaper.

BLIGH, A. B., *Shipping-master, Halifax.*

- 55** Makes out agreements between captains and their crews, about 2,800 sailors being shipped through his office annually, one-third of whom are Norwegians. No crimps in Halifax and the Sailors Home does everything to make the sailor comfortable, keeping him sober and taking care of his money.
- 56** Able seamen get \$20 a month; ordinary seamen, \$18; stokers, \$20 or \$22. There has been a falling off in shipping men on account of the West Indian trade being more done in steamers now than formerly, and the steamers shipping their men on the other side. Although the number is less now than five years ago, quite as many are shipped as when he took the office, nine years ago. Not enough Canadian sailors to fill the demand, as many of them only go short voyages—say to the West Indies—and then return to the fishing. Few complaints of over-loading, and where such complaints are made, the law is enforced and the over-load taken out before going to sea.

BOAK, WALTER, C., *Fish Merchant, Halifax.*

- 141** Ships fish, both fresh and dried, mostly to Montreal. With suitable cars fresh fish could be sent to Montreal without being packed in ice. Sells most of his dried fish in Halifax to West Indian buyers. Some of the inshore fishermen with small boats do very well, making from \$400 to \$600 in the season, which lasts from early in April to the latter part of October. A boat of this class will have three men, its owner and two others. Many own their houses, such as they are, and are worth money, most of which is made out of mackerel, though they also catch cod and herring. Their season's outfit cost from \$300 to \$400 annually, including family living. Shore fishermen live as comfortably as mechanics in Halifax. They often own some land, and if sober and industrious can earn a good living and make money. Their houses cost from \$400 to \$600. No sturgeon fishing on the coast.
- 142**

BOARDWELL, JOHN, *Biscuit-baker, Halifax.*

- 176** Earns \$10 a week in a biscuit factory, where ten boys and men are employed, the youngest being about fifteen. Not a foreman, and does not know what wages the others are getting. Boys have been hurt in the shop. He owns a property, though it is mortgaged, and lets two rooms in it for 75 cents a week. Taxes are \$13 a year and water rate \$4.50.

BOND, JAMES, *Presser, N. S. Glass Works.*

- 401** Works same hours as Davidson. A pressman's work is pretty hard. Average wages, \$2.50. Works close from six to eight weeks. Married, with family, and owns house, bought with money he had. Five boys under him, the youngest about sixteen. Perfectly satisfied. Does not belong to the society. (See Davidson.)

BONNYMAN, ALEXANDER, *Machinist, Amherst.*

- 309** Has been employed for about thirteen years. Wages \$12 for ten hours a day. Cannot say what other men receive. Gets one and a-half hours for one hour's extra work, and is paid every Saturday night. About eighty-one men in the mines live in their own houses, quite a number of them married, and all of them comfortable. Has been in mine seven and a-half years,
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and has worked twice on Sundays; got same pay as overtime. Apprentices get \$3 per week for one year, increasing till term finished.

BONN, HENRY R., *Superintendent of Mayflower Tobacco Factory, Halifax.*

- 19 Factory employs seventy-four hands, twenty-one of whom are men. Wages from \$6 to \$6.50 a week, ten hours a day. Fifty girls and women are employed on piece-work, and earn same wages as men. Those on day work earn 50 cents. Boys, like the men, are paid by the week. No fines and no apprentices, and wages the same all the year round. No boy is ever beaten or otherwise punished. Closets for men and women distinct, being separated by a board partition all the way across. Ventilation and drainage good and the building fire-proof, and heated by steam. The stairway is 3 or 4 feet wide. The doors open inward. Building three stories high. Engineer has not passed an examination.

BOWMAN, JAMES, *Employé N. S. Steel Works.*

- 407 Is a heater and concurs in evidence given. No complaints against employers.

BRODIE, JAMES, *Carpenter, Halifax.*

- 29 Is considered a first-class man, and gets \$1.60 a day for ten hours work in summer, paid fortnightly. Is a member of the Carpenters and Joiners' Union, and thinks the society a benefit to the men in trade matters. It has never occasioned any trouble with the employers. Bench-hands are paid from  $17\frac{1}{2}$  to 20 cents an hour. No indentured apprentices. Union and non-union men work together without objection by either employer or employed. Has worked in Halifax eight years as a journeyman carpenter. Short time lasts about five months.

BROOKFIELD, S. M., *Builder and Contractor, Halifax.*

- 88 Has been in business about twenty-two years. Employs on the average about 100 journeymen, and from 100 to 250 laborers. Carpenters are paid \$1.60 to \$1.70 per day; men on stone-work \$2.50, and their laborers from \$1 to \$1.25, or an average of \$1.10. Has from forty to fifty bricklayers, masons, stonecutters and plasterers. Bricklayers, &c., are employed eight to nine months outside. Has a sober class of men, and has had no labor troubles.

BROWN, R. H., *Manager Sidney Mines, Cape Breton.*

- 414 Employs 604 men and boys. Underground, 284 men and 162 boys; on the surface, 132 men and 26 boys. Boys under twelve not allowed to work underground. Has been manager since 1864. Company has a store, but men are free to deal where they like; half do not deal at it. Men are paid monthly. Company owns 290 houses, which cost about \$450 each—rent from 50 cents to \$2.50 a month; some large ones fetch \$2.55—two stories, of seven rooms. Old houses have only lofts up-stairs. Wages of fair man, \$434.70; some have money in savings bank and some have built houses. Company has sold ninety acres of land at \$16 an acre.
- 416 Some pay \$4 a year for land they have built on. Company would only take back land for mining purposes. Trappers get 50 cents a day; drivers from 50 to 85 cents. This year company commenced giving \$20 a month to family society. Company pays taxes: Town of North Sydney, \$491.40; in own district, county rates, \$4,468.80; school rates, \$1,596; statute labor, \$158.45; total, \$6,714.15. In 1876 men struck for an advance and returned without it. Has been an increase in wages once or twice since. A decrease in 1884, but are a little better than in 1876. Does not believe in compulsory arbitration, as passed by Local Legislature. Cause of



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- 1884 strike, reduction of wages on account of price of coal. Some drink; others don't, and the law should be that no rum should be sold within two miles of mines. Steamers have precedence in loading; if sailing vessel is half loaded must move for steamer, the rule all over the world. Miners get coal free; charge for hauling only. They used last year 5,800 tons. Charge a little over cost for picks, and nothing for sharpening. Ten schools at mines: average attendance, 490 children. Does not think it would be of advantage to pay fortnightly; men would get drunk every fortnight instead of every month. Sober men do not wish it, and would entail double labor to make out pay-roll. If a man asks for an advance he gets it.
- 418** No fines, except when pit-drivers go to 17 feet or more, then a fine of 1 cent a ton. If a horse is killed boy in fault pays half value. Engine-drivers work twelve hours. Takes an hour and a-half to take men up and down; time not lost. Doctor's fees: Married man with family, 40 cents a month; single man, 25 cents; each son pays after sixteen (*See memorandum of wages, &c.*).
- 429** Since 1876 the price, as fixed by mutual agreement, has been, in summer, 43 cents a ton for large coal and nothing for slack; and in winter 33 cents for large coal and 15 cents for slack. Slack is whatever passes through a screen with  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch opening. About 20 per cent. goes through. No law exists under which a man injured, through no fault of his own, can claim to be provided for. Only precaution required by law is the providing of man-holes at every 20 yards. A store has been kept by the company since 1878 or 1879, object being to prevent the great increase in the price of flour which annually took place in the spring, when country merchants' stocks began to run short. Spring price of flour was in this way reduced \$2, and hundreds of country people bought their supplies from the store. Other goods, besides flour, are now kept, and sold at fair prices; but the miners can please themselves as to dealing at the company's store or elsewhere. In winter company's store, and all merchants, trust men with goods until spring. To send coal west by rail would cost company \$1.80 a ton over Pictou and Spring Hill Mines. It is 100 miles to the Straits, and the charge by rail would probably be \$1 a ton. But Spring Hill has a special rate at the cost of the country, so that this company helps to pay for carrying that coal to undersell its own. Rate to Halifax is three-tenths of a cent per ton per mile, so that company can never expect to be able to send coal by rail. To Quebec the freight by steamer is \$1.40 a ton and to Montreal \$1.60, but never lower than \$1.50. Steamers carrying coal to Montreal bring, as return cargoes, English wire rope and other supplies. Canadian flour comes by way of Boston, in bond, cheaper than by any other route.

BURGESS, DANIEL, *Employé, Mayflower Tobacco Factory, Halifax.*

- 70** Works at the cutting machines, and earns \$6.50 a week. Has one child in the factory, and another in the cotton factory, one being sixteen the other fourteen. The elder earns \$3 and the younger \$1.50 per week. Men are searched when leaving, but do not object. Never heard of any tobacco being stolen nor of any child being ill-treated. Begins work at 6:30, summer and winter, and it is very hard to require children to go to work so early. Has three rooms on the upper flat of a two-story house, for which he pays \$1 a week.
- 72** House is well ventilated and closet clean. There is a sink in the yard, and water on the premises. Children in the cotton factory have the whole of Saturday afternoon and an hour every evening for recreation.

BUSBY, JOHN, *Boiler-maker, New Glasgow.*

- 402** Has worked at boiler-making sixteen years, wages here being the same as in Halifax. Considers \$1.87 a fair day's wages for ten hours' work. Is married,

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and the house he occupies will soon be his own. The lot cost \$100 cash; the money saved while here. Is paid fortnightly, and does not wish oftener. Living same as in Halifax. No complaints.

BUTLER, JOHN, *Heater, Londonderry Iron Works.*

- 258** Works from ten to fourteen hours a day, according to the run of heats and is paid 55 cents per ton earning about \$2.75 a day, but ought to earn from \$3.25 to \$3.50; hardly averages \$2.65 the year round. Rent, \$3.50 for five rooms—has paid as high as \$7. Cannot save money. Has a family, and pays 40 cents doctor's fee; also school tax, \$1; road money, \$1; poor rates, 50 cents. Has worked in St. John, N. B. Everything a great deal cheaper there than here, in a general way. 15 cents per ton more paid in St. John, N. B.

BYERS, JAMES, *Biscuit-baker, Halifax.*

- 181** Four years ago, when he was then twelve years old and had worked six months at biscuit-baking, got his hand cut, and was laid up for three months. Got nothing, nor was his doctor's bill paid.

BYERS, RUFUS, *of McDonald & Co., Brass Founders, Halifax.*

- 4** Engaged in brass founding, machine work, steam-fitting, copper-smithing and plumbing. From sixty-five to ninety-five hands are employed, three or four of the youngest boys being about fifteen. The wages are from \$8
- 5** to \$10 per week, according to skill, and paid fortnightly. Boys at first get from \$1 to \$1.50 per week. Only 40 to 50 per cent. stay till they are skilled workmen, the others go to the north-eastern States. Men, as a rule are steady, and some have houses of their own and are saving
- 6** money. Plumbers and steam-fitters get \$10 per week; brass-moulders, from \$8 to \$12; machine hands average \$10; pattern-makers from \$12 to \$15, with constant employment; laborers \$1, per day. Workshops are well ventilated and comfortable. Firm never had any difficulty with labor unions.

CADDIGAN, JOHN, *Miner, Bridgeport Mine, Cape Breton.*

- 438** Has been five years mining and has worked in Ohio. Wages were better there. Last winter he got, in one part of pit, 38 cents a ton; in another, 41 cents; and another, 43 cents per ton, regulated by height of the coal. In Ohio was paid differently, coal having to go over a screen, and what goes over is paid for—65 cents in one mine, 62½ in another. For school tax 30 cents a month is stopped, idle time included. The company pay \$1 poll-tax for those liable—over 21 and under 60. After paying poll-tax company has \$2.60 taken as a school-tax. Has to pay poor and county rates as well. Boys in mine pay 60 cents a month for doctor and school. A man with two boys would pay \$15.80 for doctor and school in seven months. Lying-in charge, \$4. Is married and lives in his own house, paid for principally out of earnings. Cannot say if matter of taxes was presented to present agent, but was to his predecessor. Belongs to local branch of Workman's Association. Is paid monthly. Highest wages received during past twelve months about \$60 per month; lowest, \$4; some months nothing. Works nine or ten hours a day, before 7 a. m. until between 4 and 5 p. m., and takes breakfast and dinner in pit. With fair play could send up from 4 to 4½ tons
- 441** a day. Two men work together. Has not heard complaints from men being checked for bad coal. Company's man and men's weighman come to arrangement. Men come out by stairs, but could get out through the slope. They frequently ride up the coal shaft, preferring that way, as it is so much

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- 442** easier. Fortnightly pay would be an advantage, and would give men a better chance to deal for cash and buy cheaper. Not many own houses; he does not, but some men own farms, not bought out of their earnings and not from company. There are fines for plugging for "fast shots," and for over-cutting a chamber 1 cent a ton. When leaving, no regulation as to notice. Thinks there should be a law giving miners and employes a first lien on rolling stock for wages; once lost \$28 by an American company. Pays 25
- 443** cents a load for coal-slack, company hauling; for round coal, 40 cents. Last winter got it for 35 cents. All employes get it at same rate.

**CADDIGAN, JOHN, Miner, Little Glace Bay.**

- 484** Is interested in co-operative store established about three years ago, and having at present a capital of about \$5,000, in shares held by eighty or ninety persons, most of whom are miners. Dividends of 22, 12, 14 and 16 per cent. have been declared and added to the capital half yearly. Shares cost \$5 in cash, and members can get goods on credit up to \$4 a share.
- 485** Non-members have to pay cash. Original amount invested was \$950. Directors, president, treasurer and secretary elected by stockholders. Directors buy goods and hire salesmen, &c. As an officer of the Workman's Association he states that a law prohibiting the sale of liquor within from three to five miles of any colliery would benefit the workmen and would receive their votes.

**CAHILL, NICHOLAS, Plasterer, Halifax.**

- 212** Has been a member of the Plasterers' Union for four or five years. Wages are \$2.50 per day of ten hours, average yearly work being six months. Lathers get from \$1 to \$1.25 a thousand, and in slack times 90 cents, and may work a little more during the year than plasterers, being a distinct trade.

**CAMERON, ARTHUR, Keeper, Blast Furnace, Londonderry.**

- 252** Works fourteen hours one shift and ten in the other. Wages, \$2.10 a day; constant employment.

**CAMERON, JOHN, Employé, Rolling Mill, Londonderry.**

- 252** Worked as a laborer about five weeks in present place at \$1 per day, from 7 a. m. to 6:25 p. m.

**CARNELL, ROBERT J. J., Carriage-maker, Halifax.**

- 199** Has been thirty-four years in the trade, during half of which time has been in business for himself. Prefers Canadian leather to American at the same price; for carriage tops the American leather wears a little the best. Uses Johnston's Canadian lead paint, but does not think it will go as far, weight for weight, as Brandram's English leads. Uses Canadian varnish for rubbing, and thinks it has decidedly improved within the last seven years. It does not wear as well as English varnish, but in proportion to its price it is as good. Employs five men and three boys. Wood-workers earn \$9 a week; one smith has \$11 and another \$8; painter gets \$9, and the boys, when beginning, \$1 per week. No indentures. Agreements with boys are simply verbal. Shop is provided with closets; and water on the premises.

**CARNEY, MICHAEL, of James Butler & Co., Merchants, Halifax.**

- 136** Between fifty and seventy vessels are now engaged in the West Indian trade from Halifax. Fish is sent to the Mediterranean, also to New York, whence it is shipped to Panama and South America. Freights are very low, being



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- 73 cents to-day on a drum of fish weighing 128 lbs. to Havana per steamer from New York. The inshore fisheries are very much less than ten years ago, partly from over-fishing and partly from sawdust from the mills driving the mackerel out to sea. Dozens of vessels find fish twenty-five or thirty miles from land, going on Monday and fishing till Saturday.
- 137** Average tonnage of fishing vessels is 110 tons, employing twenty to twenty-two men. Vessel gets half the gross catch; captain, 5 per cent., and remainder divided among the crew. Some vessels last year got 1,800 quintals of fish, which, at \$4.25 (last year \$4.50) a quintal, sold for \$8,500, the men's share of which would be \$4,037.50, after deducting the captain's 5 per cent. and some other little deductions, such as bait, but 10 per cent. would cover them, thus giving each man nearly \$200 for a voyage lasting from April to middle of August. Sometimes two or three voyages made in a year, and at above prices might average \$400 each for the year. The men generally have farms and are well to-do. Some go in the winter to the West Indies and others lumbering and lobster fishing. Great disasters sometimes occur, one vessel having lost seventeen out of twenty men. There is no heavy frost on the banks, but if they are lost in their dories (boats) they are sometimes frost-bitten. Vessels are provisioned with the best of food—beef, pork, molasses, condensed milk, beets, turnips, potatoes, best of flour, coffee, tea, raisins, &c., and men could not be better off at home. A vessel of 110 tons costs about \$60 a ton. First fishing outfit costs about \$3,000; the second year \$2,000, or less; a vessel and outfit will thus be worth \$9,000 or over, and may earn the first year any sum from \$20,000 to not enough to pay for her provisions.

CARROLL, JOHN, *Employé, Mayflower Tobacco Factory, Halifax.*

- 65** Has worked eleven months in press-room and earned \$6.50 weekly, paid on Saturdays. No complaint to make about the management, and has never heard any bad language nor seen any improper conduct among the employés. Youngest boys are over sixteen, and none of the girls are under twelve. Factory is closed for about ten weeks yearly. Is married, no children, and pays \$1 a week for two rooms.

CASEY, C. R. S., *Tanner, Amherst.*

- 316** Has been in business in Canada twenty-seven years. Small increase in business. Employs about twenty men. Average wages paid to men tanning, \$7 per week; beamster, \$12; men in yard, \$8; men in charge of engine, \$8; no boys employed. Some men own their own houses; all are paid weekly. Keeps a grocery store and supplies for men. Supply goods to men only at same prices as other stores. If men continued to buy at other stores it might make a difference in thier getting employment, but that has never occurred. Single men not employed, if possible.

CAWSEY, JOHN, *Mason and Plasterer, Halifax.*

- 14** About thirty men employed, though the number varies with the season.  
**15** Bricklayers, plasterers, stone-masons and stone-cutters are paid from \$2.50 to \$3 per day; laborers attending them an average of \$1.25. Has had no labor troubles.

CHIPMAN, J. A., *Flour and Commission Merchant, Halifax.*

- 223** Deals mostly in flour, meal, feed and provisions. Taking the years from 1877 to 1887, prices have fluctuated, but the average rates have been getting lower. Oatmeal rose from \$3.75 in fall of 1887 to \$5.85 in April, 1888, which was due partly to the shortness of the crops and partly to the com-

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bination of Ontario millers. The grades of flour used now are greatly improved; prices of beef and pork in Nova Scotia are governed by the Chicago prices. Manitoba flour is far stronger than any made in Ontario, and bread made from it keeps moist longer.

CHISHOLM, JOHN, *Miner, Londonderry Mines.*

**252** Works by the day. Has heard testimony and agrees in it. (*See Davis.*)

**253** Wages, \$1.19 per day. Cannot keep wife and family comfortably on day's pay. By contract at the ton makes a little more.

CHRISTIE, W. GEORGE, *Woodwork Manufacturer, Amherst.*

**324** Has been engaged in this industry twenty-five years, business having increased a great deal during the past ten years. New business (making caskets) is a profitable branch. Employs from fifteen to twenty hands, and pays some \$2.50 a day, some \$1. Average skilled hands get \$9 a week and work all the year round—nine hours in winter, ten in summer. Pays every Saturday, in cash and in full.

CLARKE, GEORGE, *Carpenter, Amherst.*

**330** Has been employed since 22nd June at \$3 a week wages as an apprentice.

**331** Lives with his parents. No trouble with employers.

CLARKE, JOSEPH, *Acting Superintendent, Cotton Factory, Halifax.*

- 21** Over 300 hands employed: 45 men and 110 women, the rest being girls and boys. Average age of entrance is fourteen, though a few are as young as twelve. The lowest paid to children is \$1 a week, \$1.25 being the average. Children are employed in docking frames, picking bobbins and learning to weave. No apprenticeship and only about a dozen children on piece-work. Men average \$7.50 per week; women about \$3.90. On piece work they average 20 cents for weaving two harness work, and for three harness work, 16 to 26-cents. Each woman has charge of four looms on the average, turning out one piece each. Ten hours a day is the rule. They are fined for bad workmanship and for being late, which last year amounted to between \$100 to \$150. Closets for the two sexes in each room divided by a brick wall, but those entering can be seen, and if they stay too long the overseer looks them up. Building three stories high, with iron ladder outside as a means of escape in case of fire. Doors open outward and the stairway is roomy. Amount of wages paid last twelve months, about \$55,000. Wages are paid every alternate Thursday to the previous Saturday, a week's notice before leaving being required on penalty of losing wages due. Forfeitures last year, between \$40 and \$50. Persons leaving from accident or unforeseen cause are paid in full. In the winding-room about thirty women are employed, earning from \$4 to \$6. Twisters, paid by piece-work, average \$4.25, and sometimes earn \$5. A woman tending four looms earns about \$5.50, one tending three looms, \$4.25. Wages in the spinning-room about \$4; in the reeling room, 2.25. No separate eating room for those bringing their dinner. Drinking water provided in every room. Company discourages abuses of authority by foremen, as pushing or kicking children. No such cases, except an occasional push by overseer when greatly annoyed, have occurred.

CLAYTON, W. Y., *J. Clayton & Sons, Clothiers, Halifax.*

- 1** Firm employs about 100 hands inside, working nine hours daily. On their books are the names of about 300 persons who are only occasionally employed. Females number eight or ten to one male, and chiefly work on

*Page.*

- 2 piece-work; none under fifteen years of age. Girls beginning are placed under instruction and receive pay as soon as they can do the work. Period of instruction is from two or three weeks to as many months, according to capacity and previous knowledge of sewing. Average earnings at piece work, inside, are from \$3 to \$4 weekly. Some earn as high as \$6; beginners as low as \$1.50. Boys of fifteen get from \$1 to \$1.50 as beginners with yearly increase of \$1 a week. Young men earn from \$5 to \$12, tailors averaging about \$9; three or four hands, in good season, on custom work from \$10 to \$12—average, from \$7 to \$8. Over-time usually paid at same rates; occasionally time and a quarter has been paid. Business extends over the Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland, and is increasing yearly. When overstocked, firm on two occasions sent goods to Ontario, but not profitable to do so. No sub-contractors, and pay only outsiders whose names are on books, and to whom work has been given. If work is imperfectly done it is either returned or the cost of making it right in factory is deducted. No fines or penalties. On piece work (inside) women get 15 to 30 cents for tweed vests, and can make three a day; outsiders get from 16 to 35 cents for same, having to provide machines and press the goods, firm supplying the thread; button holes are made inside. Outside women can earn about \$4 a week of ten hours a day. For coats, firm pays (inside) from 40 cents to \$1; overcoats, \$1.50; flannel shirts, \$1.20 a dozen; cotton shirts, 90 cents a dozen. Work-rooms are heated by hot air, and by furnace for heating irons. Inconvenience caused by latter in summer is lessened by placing a partition around it. Conveniences for the sexes, and entrances are entirely distinct and separate. No fire-escapes but the stairs, 3 feet wide, leading to work-rooms at top of building. In Halifax there are four or five manufacturers of mens' and boys' clothing. By leaving name with several of these firms, an outside worker can ensure constant work.
- 2 Has had no labor troubles with work people.

COCKELL, JAMES, *Laborer at Furnace, Londonderry Iron Works.*

- 262 Employed by company six years. Daily earnings \$1.15, paid by the shift.
- 263 Three other men are employed; cannot say what they get. Hours average twelve a day. Is married, and pays \$4 per month for an eight-roomed house; used to pay more. No advantage in renting from company. Thinks it would benefit men to be paid fortnightly.

CONNELL, JAMES, *Machinist, Cape Breton.*

- 431 Works ten and a-half hours a day the year round, at \$1.25 a day. Believes it is the highest paid to machinists. Is married and owns house, purchased part by investment and part out of earnings. Is taxed \$4 for poor and county rates and \$1 for road tax. Gets coal free, but pays for hauling. Has no fault to find with management, but it might be better. Would like more pay and shorter hours. Stops work at 4 on Saturday. Thinks library and reading room would be of advantage to mechanics; has never asked for it. Boys employed would be about thirteen years old.

CONORS, JAMES, *Packer in Tobacco Factory, Halifax.*

- 64 Gets \$6.50 per week for ten hours a day. Factory is healthy. Has no trouble with his employer. Extra work is paid for at 25 cents an hour. No young children employed.

CONNORS, JOSEPH, *Baker, Halifax.*

- 169 Works at soft-bread baking, from 3 a.m. to 4 or 6 p.m., or even as late as 10 p.m.; no limited time. Gets \$8 a week in summer and \$7 in winter, business



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then being slacker. No over-time in the trade, though if men had to work as late as 10 p.m., through no fault of theirs, something might be allowed them. Ventilators are now in shops, and but little annoyance from the gas.

**170** No small boys and no labor troubles. Is satisfied with pay for time he works. In St. John, N.B., where he worked seven years ago, wages were generally \$8, as in Halifax, but in Halifax he is now paying \$1.25 a week for three rooms while in St. John he only paid \$2 a month for the same accommodation. In St. John bakers begin work at 5 a.m.; in the States their hours were from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.

COSTLEY, EBENEZER, *Loader, Springhill Mines.*

- 307** Has been five months in the mines and never worked underground before. Wages \$1.30 per day of eight to ten hours, paid out of cutters' wages by company. Last month's earnings, \$20.15, or \$1.30 a day. Subscribes to minister and doctor 45 cents a month. Has to buy oil for lamps, which costs about 65 cents per month.
- 308**

COTTER, GARRETT, *City Marshall, Halifax.*

- 225** Held position twenty-six years, and is superintendent of police and in charge of civil department. Police are paid \$440 a year; sergeants, \$500; deputy marshalls and detectives, \$700, with \$40 additional for clothing; city marshall, \$1,200. Appointments recommended by Police Committee and confirmed by Council. Since new Act came into force crime and drunkenness have decreased; ninety saloons before, now only fifty or sixty. License for retail shops, \$100; hotels, \$150. Cannot state proportion of mechanics arrested for drunkenness, nor whether decrease is due to legislation or temperance societies, but there is drunkenness now in quarters where there never was any before.
- 226**

CREELMAN, CHARLES G., *of J. A. Leaman & Co., Victuallers, Halifax.*

- 91** Exports cattle largely to Liverpool and London. Those sent to London must be larger and finer. They come from all parts of Nova Scotia, from Sackville, N.B., and from Guelph, Ont. Cost from \$8 to \$9 per cwt. dressed. To make it pay the Liverpool price should be \$13 or \$14. Shipping sheep from Prince Edward Island has not, he thinks, been profitable.
- 92**

CROSBY, ROBERT, *Coal-cutter, Gowrie Mine, Cape Breton.*

- 449** Receives 38 cents a ton, shipping price; banking 31 cents. Generally works eight or nine hours a day, a full month's earnings being \$52. July and August only months they work full time. From 90 to 112 days a year's work; not over 115 or 120 days. Gets no work when not working in mine. Yearly earnings vary from \$300 to \$350; lowest would be \$256, gross. Rents one of company's houses and pays 50 cents a month; two rooms upstairs, two down; that is the average rent. Not very comfortable, but wells are handy. Pays for coal (screened) 50 cents, and 20 cents a load for slack, delivered. Is single, and pays 30 cents to doctor and 20 cents for school per month; married men pay doctor 30 cents, and 40 cents for school. Boys under sixteen, working or not, pay 15 cents for doctor and 10 cents for school.
- 451** Trappers get 40 cents a day; drivers, 70 to 80 cents; laborers, 80 cents to \$1. Would take youngest boy to be from eleven to twelve. Is paid monthly, but would prefer fortnightly. Store in connection with mine, but not compelled to go there. Thinks men get better value when paid fortnightly. Some articles as cheap in company's store as in others. A benefit society would be supported in his locality. Sick or disabled depend on the charity of their fellow workmen, having no other means of support

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Forty or fifty dollars raised for this purpose a year. He belongs to Miners' Association, and employers have no objections to men being active in interests of the association.

CUDIHEE, JOHN, *Soft-bread Baker, Halifax.*

- 182** Has worked four years in same shop as Mr. Heffler, and fully agrees with his evidence. If day's work were fixed at ten hours bakers now idle would find work; 5 or even 6 a. m. would be early enough to begin. Has worked eight hours before breakfast and been docked a quarter of a day for twenty minutes. Has seen several boys hurt in the cracker bakery. Has been told that sanitary condition of bakeries is improved, but is not aware of it himself.

CURRAN, EDWARD, *Lumberer, Amherst.*

- 318** Employs thirty-five to forty men and boys in summer and fifty to sixty in winter wages \$1.50 a day, and board, for capable men; ordinary hands \$1. A free house and firewood. Men in the woods, \$16 to \$20, and board; employment all the year around. Age of youngest boy fourteen or fifteen. Lumbering has been good the past few years; a little better this year. Men in woods about three months.

**319**

CURRY, NATHANIEL, *of Rhodes & Curry, Builders and Contractors, Amherst.*

- 310** Engaged in business about eleven years, which has increased during the past seven or eight. At present firm employ seventy men; next month number will be doubled. Last summer had nearly 200 men, about 140 being average for last two years. Cabinet-makers get \$10 to \$12 a week; ordinary hands, about \$10.50; machinists or wood-turners get \$2 a day extra; foremen \$3. Apprentices not taken under sixteen or seventeen years of age; \$3 a week for one year which is increased according to progress made. Laborers get \$1.10 a day of ten hours, lowest wages paid. Thinks half the men own their houses; one owns five and others four and three, paid for out of earnings. Wages paid in cash on 1st and 3rd Saturdays in month. Rents, provisions, wood and coal are cheaper than in Halifax; coal, \$3 to \$5.50 a chaldron; hardwood, \$3 per cord of 128 ft.; hind quarter of beef, 5 to 6 cents a pound. Average value of houses, \$1,000 each, with lots. Wages have increased fully 20 per cent. during last five years; no extra for night work.

**313**

DAVIDSON, JOHN, *Finisher, N. S. Glass Works, New Glasgow.*

- 400** Three finishers are employed, who work nine hours a day, practically at \$3 a day. Was brought from England specially for this work. No small boys are employed; the youngest from twelve to fourteen. Has one of his own in works aged fifteen. Owns house and land; taxes differ; built house out of earnings. Wages about the same as in England but hours less. Sanitary condition and water-closets good. No complaints against employers, and is quite satisfied. Stops work during hottest months. Has worked in works five years, and son works a little on and off.

DAVIS, JAMES, *Puddler, Londonderry Iron Works.*

- 249** Gets \$3.30 per ton, of which helper receives one-third. Has worked for company on and off for twenty-three years. During last four years has averaged about four months in the year. Last winter works closed down for nine months, during which time he worked at Reading, Pittsburg and Philadelphia. Wages in eastern Pennsylvania, \$4.15 per ton—winter before this; Pittsburg, \$5.50; one-third paid to helper. Cost of clothing cheaper but rent dearer in Reading than in Londonderry; meat dearer; bread about the same. Has been puddling thirty-four years. Pays \$4 a month rent,

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- 251** coming in now to \$6, and \$3 per year taxes for school, county, road, and poor rates, including 45 cents for doctor. Would prefer fortnightly pay instead of monthly. Thinks there are four or five taxes. Buys coal from company at \$2.70 per ton; outsiders pay \$3. Has three children married and working for themselves; another in California, and six at home doing nothing. A good many boys are employed, but cannot tell their ages. The work stunts their growth.

DEMPSTER, JAMES, of *Dempster & Co., Halifax.*

- 51** Owns a planing mill and employs between forty and fifty hands, 75 per cent. of whom are skilled mechanics. Has twenty joiners and finishers, and thirteen or fourteen working on machines. No apprentices, but takes boys to clear up, and if they show any aptitude they are put to any work they are fit for, and get \$6 a week. Bench hands are paid 16 or 17 cents an hour; machine hands, \$10.50 or \$11 a week; second-class men, from \$8 to \$9. The only accident occurred fifteen years ago, being the loss of a young man's thumb from his own carelessness. Men are sober and intelligent and some of them own their own houses, purchased through building societies and paid for by their earnings. Has had no labor trouble and has no objection whatever to workmen who belong to trades unions.

DEWOLF, JOHN, *Carriage-maker, Halifax.*

- 193** Has been in business twenty-eight years, and before steamers ceased running shipped many carriages to Bermuda and West Indies. Makes spokes from Nova Scotia oak and North Carolina hickory for own use, and ships to London, (Eng.), and St. John, N.B. Steel and iron are cheaper than ten years ago; hickory dearer, because scarcer; other materials about the same. Some steel works come from London, but a great deal is made here. Painters use Canadian rubbing varnish, but in leads prefer Brandram's English. Labor a little dearer than ten years ago, and the men are thrifty and industrious. The foreman of the workshop has saved \$1,400 in six years out of wages, rising from \$8 to \$12. Employs six or seven boys, but none under sixteen. He approves of the plan of giving workmen a certain percentage of the profit, but thinks Halifax too small a place for such a step to be practicable just yet. Wood-workers earn from \$9 to \$12, and one man \$15 a week; blacksmiths, \$9.50 and \$10.50; boys learning trade, \$1, to \$1.50, \$2.25 and \$3. After serving four years they get full journeyman's wages, and some of them have now been in the shop eight, ten and twenty years, respectively; two are foremen and one owns a house and shop. Painters' foreman gets \$10.50 a week and the men under him \$9, excepting one man who gets \$6. Carriages have decreased very much in price during last ten years.

DEYOUNG, JOHN, *Broom Manufacturer, Halifax.*

- 147** Trade has increased wonderfully within last ten years, it being formerly very poor. Employs ten men, earning up to \$12 a week, and producing from 100 to 120 dozens weekly. Gets his corn from Chicago, both by rail direct and by way of Boston. Has sent from 1,000 to 1,200 dozens of brooms to Newfoundland and 800 dozens to the West Indies. Trade is increasing, and for the right man Halifax is the right place. No better workmen can be got than the broom hands of Halifax, but capital is needed to run the business to the extent it can be carried. Car loads of brooms are sent to Halifax from Toronto Central Prison, and were it not for this competition he could employ more than fifty hands. It is pretty hard to compete with a Government. The Central Prison brooms are well enough made.



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DOLE, G. M., *Cabinet-maker, Amherst.*

- 326** Employed about two years, average wages being \$10 to \$12 a week for ten hours a day throughout the year. Is paid twice a month, and never wished to be paid more frequently. Boys receive \$3 a week. Would not approve of indenture system. One serious accident through carelessness of the men. The machinery is well guarded.

DONAHOE, CORNELIUS, *Co-operative Storekeeper, Cape Breton.*

- 426** Stock owned by miners themselves, and has been in operation twenty-one years. Sells at same price as other stores; profits at times very good, gives credit to amount of investment; outsiders pay cash; capital limited to \$40,000; \$10 smallest amount received. Knows of a few men in mines who have saved money. Agent for Dominion savings bank since 1883; total deposits with him now about \$70,000; does not know proportion belonging to miners; farmers are principal depositors. Thinks there is less drinking now than ten years ago, and would not increase if men were paid fortnightly. Quite a number of young men lose time through drink. Cost of living has decreased during past ten years, flour, tea sugar and dry goods being less.

DOYLE, PATRICK, *Ship-owner, Halifax.*

- 226** Interested in shipping for over thirty years, principally coasters. Freights in 1882 and 1887 not so good as in 1877; between 1882 & 1887 not much difference.
- 227** Cost of construction and husbanding vessels now not quite as much as in 1877, freights, labor and material being much lower; wages and charges about the same. Buys duck at Yarmouth, which is not as good as American, and costs a little more. Uses wire rope for standing and manilla for running rigging. Canadian rope not as good as American; would sooner pay 14 cents for American than  $12\frac{1}{2}$  for Canadian. Bought manilla last year for  $12\frac{1}{2}$ ; in fall it went up  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cents. Employs men at about same wages as in 1877—\$2.70 for ten hours work; steady employment for about nine months in the year. Does not see any change in sailors as to sobriety.
- 228** Never paid higher wages to caulkers since 1872. Wages of sailors on coasting vessels from \$16 to \$18 a month; lay up last of December to take on 1st of April. He complains of having to give way to steamers, having to go out and stay ten or fifteen days while they are loading. Petitioned against it this session to Mr. Hearn. Steamers taking precedence of sailing vessels at mines are owned by mine agents; some are chartered. Cannot say if steamship lines own any; they have preference, no matter who owns them. Thinks Canadian rope has improved in quality during ten years.

DRUMMOND, ROBERT, *Grand Secretary, Provincial Workmen's Association, Stellarton.*

- 366** Has worked in the Drummond and Cape Breton mines, but now manages a paper, and is paid secretary of the association. There exists a strong—though not general—feeling among the men in favor of fortnightly payments. Wishing to show a better average of pay for cutters, from whose earnings loaders' wages are deducted, the loaders' pay has been stated by the management to be \$1.20. In the mines—represented by him—they refused to take \$1.30 from the cutters for loaders. The association procured last session the passage of an Act by the Nova Scotia Legislature providing for compulsory arbitration between workmen and managers, men to choose two arbitrators, managers one, and the three a fourth, three of whom form a quorum. The penalty is a forfeiture of fourteen days' pay to every man employed if the manager refuses to comply with the arbitrators' decisions,

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and a forfeiture of fourteen days' wages to the company by every man similarly refusing. In Cape Breton the sworn unquestioned statements in the Dominion franchise returns for 1887, prove that only three or four of the miners earned \$300 that year, which was an average one. Since the formation of the union the boys have not been beaten by the foremen, nor are the men now sworn at. Miners, as a class, have greatly improved in sobriety and good behavior. During last ten years, owing to the union, 2,000 men have assembled at a pic-nic and not one of them drunk. Twelve years should be the minimum age for working in mines, and a doctor's certificate as to physical capacity should be required from every child employed, and also the ability to read and write. The system of apprenticeship should also be introduced. To learn mining it takes three or four years, and under the present system an inexperienced stranger will be given the better paid work of cutting in preference to a trained boy. Such a man can butcher coal, but cannot do a trained boy's work. Industrial schools should also be established, giving technical education, according to locality. Farmers' children should be taught about the soil and miners' children about mining. Fourteen lodges are under the grand council of the association, containing 3,000 nominal members. The great majority are not in good standing, the men in Cape Breton being idle from December until May, partly from the ice blockade, partly from the lack of railways and partly from the new system of putting in enough men in summer to supply the whole year.

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During these months they are earning nothing, except by a little banking, and so cannot pay their dues. Explosions have had the same result. About ninety lives have been lost within the last five or seven years. Out of forty-six in the mine at the last explosion, two who had been killed by the gas were got out, a great many escaping by the cage pit. Cause of the explosion was never ascertained, and the only investigation was the Coroner's inquest, on which it is provided that three of the jury must be competent miners and that the men can appoint some one to examine witnesses. The Provincial Government derived, in 1887, a royalty of \$120,000, at 7½ cents a ton, in the coal mines, and this source of revenue will increase. No accidents causing death or permanent injury occurred in 1887 in Stellarton or at the Acadian Mines.

EVANS, GEORGE, *Foreman, Shoe Factory, Amherst.*

321

Has worked in factory five years, ten hours a day. Declines to state his wages. Has never had difficulty with the firm. No labor organizations around the Province. No children are employed under fourteen years of age, and no fines. Manager treats all very gentlemanly.

EVANS, NATHANIEL, *Boiler-maker, Dartmouth.*

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Has plenty of work; trade increasing. Employs about forty boiler-makers, earning from \$7 to \$12 a week. Boys are not indentured, and many of them leave as soon as they become useful, three now getting \$3 a day in the States. Could not earn such wages here. Ten hours is a day's work in the

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shop, 9 outside; wages the same for outside and inside hands; paid fortnightly, on Saturdays. Over-time after 6 p.m., double. Boys earn from \$1.50 to \$3 a week the first year, with \$1 a week added yearly. Many boiler-makers become deaf or hard of hearing; is so himself, having worked for sixteen years for Cunards. Gets his boiler-plate from the old country.

FERGUSON, ALEXANDER, *Miner, Londonderry Iron Mines.*

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Day's pay perhaps \$2.25, to 60 cents or 75 cents. Is idle part of the time. Has been mining fifteen years, and continuously employed for five months.

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- 285** Average wages \$10 to \$30 a month; highest, \$40. Average last year for all in the mine, from \$300 to \$350. Is building a house of seven rooms through building society; land cost \$100. Living costs higher than in some other places. Difference in wages of 60 cents a day for one month and \$2 a day for another, caused through mine being overstocked with men. Has no complaints to make, except overcrowding and having to carry tools to work.

FERGUSON, IRA, *Printer, Halifax.*

- 148** Is a compositor on a morning paper, and averages nine hours of composition per day, the year round, summer being a slack time and winter very busy, during the session. About 10,000 is an average night's work, at 30 cents per thousand. Four columns of figures are charged a-price-and-a-half. A man can work as many nights as he pleases;
- 149**

FERGUSON, MALCOLM, *Driver, Cape Breton.*

- 437** Starts at 6 a. m.; usually gets done at from 2 to 6 p. m., when he gets the coal out. Is paid daily—85 cents in summer, 80 cents in winter, and has worked six years in the mine. At trapping was paid 30 cents a day; next step, driving. Some boys get 75 cents a day. No complaints against manager.
- 438** Lives with his parents. Some boys half his age drink.

FINNIHAN, EDWARD, *Stone-cutter, Halifax.*

- 211** Has been eighteen years at the trade, and served four years apprenticeship, beginning at \$1 and rising \$1 a week yearly. Present pay in Halifax as fixed by the Union is 25 cents an hour. Work is eight hours a day and averages about six months a year. There are twenty-four stone-cutters in Halifax.
- 212**

FLEMING, JAMES W., *Keeper of Poor Asylum, Halifax.*

- 99** On April 1st, 1888, 305 persons were in the asylum; a large number (cannot give proportion) can partly earn their living. Some, if carefully employed there, can earn their living, but not more than two or three men fit to do so outside. The city has full control and charges the Province 25 cents each per day for transient paupers. Appropriation by city for each pauper, about \$20 a year. Orders for admission granted by a charity committee of six aldermen. Stone-breaking and concrete-making for sewers are done in the house; clothes and shoes for inmates are also made. Some of them work in the provincial hospital. Ten or twelve acres of farming land partly are owned and partly rented by the asylum. About eighty inmates are paid for by the Province, most of them from the old countries. Of the 305 seventy are men, 123 women, and twelve children not over ten years old. Foundlings and younger children go to the Orphans' Home, and when old enough, are bound to persons of their own creed, recommended by their clergymen. Eight years ago 481 persons were in the asylum, over forty of whom were children. Decrease in number of inmates attributable to greater strictness in compelling outside districts to support their own poor, and an increased disposition among certain classes to earn their own living. Orphans' Home takes more children now than formerly. A doctor visits asylum at stated times. Three services on Sunday, clergy holding them and visiting sick being paid. Building has three stories, besides basement; stairways at each end, but no fire-escapes; doors opening outwards.
- 100**
- 101**

FLOYD, JAMES, *Soft-bread Baker, Halifax.*

- 182** Works about twelve hours a day and has worked as many as twenty-four.



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Present wages are \$8 a week ; nothing extra allowed for working from 3 a.m. to 6 p.m., and if a man quits work he loses his day's pay. Boys are put to the biscuit business too young, and a great many get hurt, some of them seriously. One rescued by him was between thirteen and fourteen. Wages in the largest factories are from \$3 to \$7, foreman getting as high as \$12 ; outside the factories bakers average \$7 and \$8 for twelve hours' work.

- 183** In summer they may get \$7 and in winter be reduced to \$5, \$4 or \$3, if they do not belong to the Union. Long and early hours tend to make men drink, but majority of bakers are as steady as other tradesmen. Adoption of ten hours system would give work to men now unemployed. Busy season—when ships of war come in—June to November. Holidays and Christmas are busy times for cake-bakeries, of which there are about twenty in the city ; men earning from \$6 to \$8 a week, and the day's work being only ten hours. They are slack for about a month after Christmas. Unemployed bakers can get no other employment.

FORHAN, THOMAS, *Sail-maker, Halifax.*

- 143** Employs from ten to eighteen men and boys, including four apprentices, from fifteen years upwards. Journeymen make \$10.50 a week ; boys get \$1.50, with a yearly rise of 50 cents weekly. Few apprentices remain after completing their time. Two strikes lately, one for increase of wages, which they got, and second because they would not work where there were more than three apprentices. Men are as good workmen as in any part of the world, and are sober and industrious. The canvas mostly comes from Yarmouth or from Halifax merchants. Yarmouth duck is not quite as good as American, but all sail-makers use a great deal of it. Trade is decreasing, there being fewer sailing vessels built. Does not object to employ society men, but they will not work for him although he has asked them. Occasionally employs women for making flags.

FORREST, S. S., *of S. S. Forrest & Co., Lobster Packers, Halifax.*

- 133** Firm employs in busiest season from 200 to 225 hands of both sexes, including fishers and packers. Men's wages are from \$25 to \$40 a month, with board and lodging. Women get \$8 a month with board and \$12 if they board themselves. Wages are always paid in cash. Food is plentiful and well cooked, and the boarding houses comfortable. Season lasts from 1st May to 31st., October, and the fishery is much affected by the weather.
- 134** From over fishing the supply of lobsters has fallen off 50 per cent. Firm owns boarding houses. Closets for the sexes are always distinct and from 40 to 100 feet apart. Fourteen or fifteen children are sometimes employed. During winter the men go to sea, or work in mines or woods, or on their farms ; some of the women go to service. Wages higher than formerly and about the same as in Eastport, Maine. Can-makers are employed by the firm during the whole year, and earn \$2 a day.

FRANCKLYN, GEORGE C., *of Cunard Steamship Co., Halifax.*

- 94** From fifty to eighty men are employed in discharging an ordinary ship. They get 20 cents an hour by day and 25 cents an hour by night, thus earning from \$4 to \$7 for each steamer. The man on the wheel gets \$1.50 per day.
- 95** Ship laborers are pretty constantly employed in Halifax, especially during winter, when the St. Lawrence is closed. Hired through a stevedore, but are paid by firm at the end of the week. Some men earn \$12, \$13 or \$14 a week ; then they may be a week or two idle ; it depends wholly upon steamers coming in. During his twenty years' experience no accident has occurred from gear breaking. Longest time he has known men to work is

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from Sunday midnight to Tuesday morning. Night-work pay is reckoned from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. Much of the work is done at night. If a man finds his strength giving out no objection to his getting a substitute.

FRASER, ALEXANDER, *Carpenter, Halifax.*

- 31** Has worked as journeyman about fifteen years, and now gets  $17\frac{1}{2}$  cents an hour, paid weekly, but thinks fortnightly pay safer for the men. There  
**32** are skilled mechanics getting \$1.60 a day, engaged on the best work, and yet receiving the smallest pay; the average, however, is \$1.75. Bricklayers get \$2.75, and require less skill than carpenters. An apprentice serves about five years, without indenture, and ought to get about \$1 a day in his last year. Some of the Halifax shops are cold and draughty and without  
**33** conveniences. Rent has risen about 10 per cent. for mechanics' houses during last fifteen years. Six rooms in a tenement house in respectable locality would cost between \$7 and \$8 per month. Meat also is higher than, fifteen years ago. Belongs to Carpenters' Association, which he thinks has prevented reduction of wages. There is also a benefit at death of members or their wives. Carpenters prefer not to have apprentices indentured.

FRASER, GRAHAM, *Manager, N.S. Steel Works.*

- 390** Has an interest in Nova Scotia forge works. Two hundred men are employed, the number gradually increasing. Day and night work every alternate week, day hours being ten and night twelve, same pay for both. Rollers wages by the day \$4; by the ton as high as \$5 and \$6; average for the year about \$5. Heaters get \$2 per day; by the ton same as rollers; melters, \$2.50 a day; machinists, \$1.50 to \$2; blacksmiths, same; laborers, \$1.10, in winter \$1. Ten or twelve boys are employed as helpers first.  
**391** Pays twice a month, up to 15th, and on following Saturday, in cash and in full. Fines exacted only for being late. A number of men own houses, but cannot say how they are paid for, and a few men hold stock in company.  
**392** Not many garnishees, and does not think it a fair law. Company does not pay men when laid up nor doctor's bill. No labor troubles or strikes. In case of trouble would endeavor to settle it himself; if not able, would favor arbitration. Thinks he would have objections to employing Union men. Has not asked if any belong to organization. Sanitary arrangements handy, clean and in proper shape. On men leaving employ two weeks' notice is expected and many have to wait till next pay day for wages. On dismissal men are paid at once. Wages have increased from \$1.30 to \$1.35 since 1884. Youngest boys ten, twelve or fifteen.

FRASER, JOHN, *Employé, N.S. Steel Works, Cape Breton.*

- 404** Is a melter, and earns from \$3.10 to \$3.25 a day. Has twenty-five men under him, one making \$2.25 a day, or 25 cents an hour; the others from 15 to 18 cents an hour; gas men,  $12\frac{1}{2}$  cents an hour; hours from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. day work; night work till 7 in morning. Thinks two men own houses. Sanitary condition pretty good.

FRASER, ROBERT, *Machinist, New Glasgow.*

- 403** Has worked at trade for twenty years; for Matheson's nineteen years. Gets  
**404** about \$10 a week. Is married and has property, but had money to build house. His wages do not more than keep him; one and a-half time paid for night-work. The sanitary condition of concern and water-closets good. No system of fining. Is paid once a fortnight, oftener would be no advantage.

FRY, FRANCIS, *Halifax.*

- 170** Has no trade, but has a son in baking business.

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FURLONG, J. J., *Employé, Rhodes, Curry & Co., Amherst.*

- 331** About six years at wood-turning at \$10 wages; employ compares with that  
**332** of Halifax. No trouble with employers and no labor organization. Cost of living just the same in Amherst as Halifax. Thinks family supplies a little dearer than in Halifax. Pays \$7 for rent.

GATES, HAVELOCK, *Employé in Rope Works, Halifax,*

- 234** Five years in present employ and nineteen years of age. General handy  
**235** man. Wages when first employed \$8 per month; now \$30. Clerks are paid monthly; factory hands fortnightly. A number of females in factory. Separate conveniences for both sexes.

GATES, JUDSON, *Employé in Rope Works, Halifax*

- 235** Has been employed two years at oakum, and receives \$3 per week. Is single, and treated well by employers. Is paid according to work done. No girls employed.

GERMAN, WILLIAM, *Employé in N.S. Glass Works, New Glasgow.*

- 401** Makes chimneys on piece-work. A fair week's earnings would be about \$14. Is supposed to work nine hours a day, but don't, a certain number of articles constituting a day's work. Has heard said that occupation is unhealthy, but his health is good. Is single and keeps house, which he did not build out of earnings. Has two boys under him, the youngest about thirteen or fourteen.  
**402** Sanitary condition of shops and closets not very good. Knows of some men having money in bank. There are no fines.

GIBB, WILLIAM, *Carpenter, Halifax.*

- 46** Has been 20 years a carpenter, and agrees pretty nearly with the testimony of Mr. Northup, which he heard. He earns \$1.75 a day and owns his own house, valued at \$1,000, which he bought out of his earnings. (*See Northup.*)

GIBSON, W. H., *of Doull & Miller, Clothing Manufacturers, Halifax.*

- 7** On an average about 125 hands, about half of whom are employed in the building. Eleven tailors are employed at an average of \$9. About 45 women are also employed, earning, inside and out, about \$3 a week. No children are employed, nor have there been any labor troubles, and the men, generally, are sober and industrious. Wages have remained the same for about seven or eight years. Separate conveniences for the sexes, though divided by only  
**8** a wall, but no screen to prevent the women being seen entering. Goods, if defective, have to be made right by those bringing them in, and any damage done has to be paid for. Flannel shirts are paid for at the rate of \$1 to \$2 per dozen; overalls, from 60 cents a dozen upward. Wages are paid fort-  
**9** nightly. Most of the girls live at home and pay nothing for board, but those paying, pay from \$2 to \$2.50.

GILFOY, EDWARD, *Employé in Carding-room, Halifax Cotton Mills.*

- 129** Is fifteen, and has worked four years. Youngest boys are twelve or thirteen, and thinks some of the girls are younger. Beginners get \$3 a fortnight. He now gets \$5.25 a fortnight full time. Fines are imposed for being late (over 5 or 10 minutes), playing and breaking machinery. Boys are sometimes slapped by foreman for playing, though not hard enough to make them cry. Has never seen any girls slapped. Boys are sometimes checked by foreman for going too often to the next flat for drinking water, there being none in the carding-room. Work starts at 6:30 a.m. sharp the year round, and children have to rise at 6 or 5:45. He finds the hours too long, and is pretty tired



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at night. Has not much time for play, but is well treated. Went to school three or four years and can read and write. Few of the children in the mill, aged about eleven or twelve, cannot do so.

GILLIS, MURDOCK, *Ore Filler, Londonderry Iron Works.*

- 262** Works nine hours in day time, twelve hours at night—week about at night work—at \$1.12 per day. Chargers get \$1.20; coke men, \$1.10, and pickers, \$1. Board costs \$3 per week for single men. Pays doctor's fee, 40 cents a month, and has no objection to pay it. He also pays \$1 for school taxes, \$1 road money, 66 cents poor and county rates. Does not know how taxes are fixed.

GILPIN, EDWIN, *Inspector of Mines, Halifax.*

- 89** Last year 22,280 tons of quartz were mined in Nova Scotia, yielding 21,211 ounces of gold, at a cost of 172,443 days' labor. Miners average \$1.30 a day; best men's wages being \$1.50. A few children are employed, but only as drivers.

GORDEN, WILLIAM, *Manager of C. B. McDougall's Distillery, Halifax.*

- 189** Twenty-two men are regularly employed, besides men doing trucking. Two still-men get \$7 a week each; two mash men, \$8; engineer, \$12; carpenter, \$8; cooper, \$11; and laborers, \$6 and \$6.50. Twelve hours a day's work, with Saturday, half-holiday. Night hands work same as day hands, and only watchmen are employed on Sunday. Grain and corn are got from the States, and some rye and malt from the Upper Provinces. Canadian rye as good as American but not as well dressed. Farmers and dairymen buy the swill for cattle feed. Operation of the Scott Act does not appear to have any effect upon business. Engineer has a certificate, and it would perhaps be an advantage if all engineers running large engines were required to be licensed.

GORHAM, JOHN, *of J. S. McLean & Co., Halifax.*

- 216** Wholesale dealer in tea, provisions and West India produce. Produced a comparative list of wholesale prices, which showed that tea, coffee, molasses, sugar, flour, cornmeal, oatmeal and coal oil are, as a rule, cheaper now than they were in the period between 1877 and 1882. (See memorandum.)

GOOD, WILLIAM, *Master Carder, N. S. Cotton Factory, Halifax.*

- 79** Was engaged in England last year by company, and has worked in a factory for twenty-three years, since he was seven years old. Gets \$15 a week, a day's work being ten hours and a-quarter. (Evidence as to fines and the absence of bad language, immorality among the hands, is much the same as of Mr. Kniveton's). Fines are seldom imposed. Between thirty and forty women work in the carding-room, some by the piece, and make \$5 a week or \$6, and some by the day, at 30 cents for beginners to 94 cents for women. Piece-work is done quicker but no better than day's work. Girls can read and write. In England the lowest legal age of factory workers is ten years for what are known as "half timers," or children who have to attend school for half the day until they either pass a certain educational standard or reach the age of fourteen. From five to ten years their parents are by law compelled to send them to school. Wages are rather higher in Halifax than in Lancashire, but it costs factory people more to live. He used to get 50 shillings a week in England and is now getting \$15 here. Women in carding-rooms in Bolton, Lancashire, get 24 or 25 shillings for fifty-six hours and a-half work of a finer class than in

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Halifax. In Manchester they earn from 18 shillings to a sovereign per week of fifty-six hours and a-half for work of the same quality as in Halifax. (See Kniveton.)

GOUGH, GEORGE, *Puddler, Londonderry Iron Works.*

- 237** Would prefer wages being paid fortnightly, could use it to better advantage. Two weeks' pay always kept in hand. Has been in present employ eleven months. Rate per ton in old country according to class of iron; lowest price 7s. 6d. per ton; twelve months before he left was down to 7s. He received from 10s. to 10s. 6d. per ton for puddler and helper. Iron sells at £7 per ton; in last seven or eight years he used to get 1s. in the pound and 1s extra. Is about eight years since it was taken off. Worked in Cookly, Worcestershire. At that time living was cheaper in England than here, meat only a little extra and bread 4½d. for a 4 pound loaf. Here we bake our own bread, flour being \$5.25 per barrel. Vegetables are cheaper in the old country. Pays 1s. 6d. a week house rent for wife which would be worth \$2 per month here. Coals in the old country at the pit 8s.; if delivered 11s. to 13s.; believes coals here \$2.50 or \$2.75. Wages average from \$45 to \$50, for which he works about eleven and a half hours per day, one week day work and one week night work. Cannot say if boys under thirteen years are employed; some look very small.
- 239**

GRAHAM, PETER, *Manager of Woollen Mill, New Glasgow.*

- 377** Employs between forty and forty-four hands; about twelve skilled workmen, whose wages average from \$1.15 to \$2 a day. Fifty-four cents is the lowest paid to boys; if smart they get 90 cents in eighteen months or two years. About twenty-four women are employed, who go in at 54 cents a day, but none under seventeen years. Youngest boy is fourteen. One girl last week made \$9, and makes from \$20 to \$28 a month; weavers make \$20 a month. Ten hours is a day's work. Separate closets for women, in good sanitary condition. Pays monthly, and sells at cost to employes the produce of the mill. No trouble with men; no strikes and no system of fining. Commenced manufacturing two years ago. No fire escape, and doors not locked in day time.
- 379**

GRAHAM, ROBERT, *Machinist, New Glasgow.*

- 403** Has worked at trade eighteen years and gets \$10 a week. In Providence, R.I., would get \$2.40 to \$2.75 a day, some places \$3. Is married man, with family. Had a family in the States. If a single man he would go back. Average hours, fifty a week. Is satisfied with his employment. No complaints.

GRAHAM, WHIDDEN, *Clerk in Grocery Store, New Glasgow.*

- 405** Has been employed for six years, and was one year in glass factory. Marked improvement in skilled men since concern started. Quite a number of boys are employed who can read and write, aged from thirteen to fourteen; occasionally from eleven to twelve. Has called trustees' attention to it, but it is optional whether to enforce law or not. Has also called parents' attention to it, but they are careless. Thinks weekly payment would not be of the slightest benefit, difference being men would get drunk once a week instead of once a fortnight. Many men own houses. Considers men sent to gaol should be made to do any kind of work—selling groceries, for instance. Free men have to support them. Immigrants brought out by Government are of too poor a type and uneducated. Sanitary condition of factories might be improved. Drinking water not good in summer and water-closets

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**406** not in the condition they should be. Believes in abolishing the laws for collection of debts. Garnishee process should be abolished.

GRAY, ROBERT, *Miner, New Glasgow.*

- 345** Was discharged from Acadia Mines because he took part in labor organization. Had worked there nineteen years. About thirty were discharged, some being taken on again. Thinks that men now belonging to labor organizations have the preference. Two dollars a day would be a fair average in Acadia Mine. Strike was on account of reduction of wages. Explanation was that company was paying too much. Company refused to appoint arbitrator, without a reason. Men were anxious for it. A compromise of about half was agreed to after striking three and a-half months.
- 346** Twenty or thirty foreign miners, chiefly Belgians, were brought in, which had a tendency to decrease wages. Would like to see a law passed prohibiting importation of foreigners. During past five years wages have decreased, and cost of living has increased this winter. About 150 men and boys are employed in Acadia Mines—about twenty boys. Is paid once a month; applied to be paid fortnightly or weekly, but did not get it. A majority desire it. Lives in his own house, but thinks rents are similar at both mines. Acadia has better houses, more accommodation, and are kept in better repair. If there are 28 lbs. of stone in the box, 20 cents is checked off. Men have grumbled about fines being too heavy. No fund for sickness or disablement, the company grasping all they can. Used to ask for donation of coal, fines for sickness, but always refused. Pays poor rates on property besides; rather heavy sometimes. Does not think men save any money; some with a large family of boys have accumulated something. Men were willing to go back to work, but manager would not hear of it.
- 348**
- 349**

GREEN, WM. H., *Livery Stable Keeper, Dartmouth.*

- 163** Employs about six or seven stablemen. Through competition business is not so good as it was when he started some years ago. Cost of keeping horses is about the same as formerly, but there is a better class of animals at present. Coal is \$4 a ton; hardwood \$4 a cord. His men are employed the year round at \$7 a week, with no deductions for wet weather nor extra pay for over-time. Work begins at 6 a.m.
- 164**

HALIFAX COTTON FACTORY, *Halifax.*

- 200** Miss \* \* \* Is a winder, and has worked for six months, hours being from 6:30 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.; on Saturdays until 11:45. Wages \$2.75 a week, \$3, or a little over, being the highest earnings of winders at piece-work. Is the only one on weekly pay. Some girls of sixteen are only earning \$1.75. Girls are set winding three or four days after entering the mill. They pay \$1.50 a week for board. In the winding-room there are no fines and no girls under sixteen. No ill-treatment and nothing to complain of.
- 201**
- 202** Miss \* \* \* Has been a weaver for the last four years and manages six looms. After paying helper, who is twelve years old, \$1 a week, she can earn from \$10 to \$11 a fortnight, when not kept waiting for work, chiefly by accidents to the machinery. Helper has the same hours, and cannot sit down when working. Weaving room is comfortable and well ventilated, and has no complaints to make either of ill-treatment or bad language. It took her five or six weeks to learn enough of the trade to earn \$1 a week, and six months after that to earn \$2 a week. Has been fined 50 cents in a fortnight for bad cotton, but it was her own fault.
- 203** Miss \* \* \* Is a weaver, having charge of four looms, and earns from \$6 to \$9 a fortnight. Confirms evidence of last witness as to hours of work,



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finer and loss of time through waiting, but adds that she had heard bad language used by over-lookers to the children, though they never whip them. Youngest girls in her room, which is sometimes rather warm, are from thirteen to fourteen.

- 203** Miss \* \* \* Works in spinning room on piece-work, and earns, at most, \$6 a fortnight. Youngest girls are twelve, and earn \$2 a week. Hours from 6:15 a.m. to 6 p.m., with an hour for dinner, and fines for being late.
- 204** Room too warm in summer; windows never opened, and a great deal of dust. Abusive language and swearing is used in the room by an under-boss to those who do not work quick enough. Has seen him kick the boys until they cried; but not the girls. Does not know if they complained to the managers.
- 204** Miss \* \* \* Is in the reeling room, highest earnings in a fortnight being \$4.28. Loses much time waiting for work, and last fortnight, from this cause, earned only \$2.32. Has been nearly two years in factory, can read and write and is in her fifteenth year. Has seen no girls ill-treated. Youngest girls are twelve. Hours the same as the weavers, and she finds them too long. Lives with her parents.
- 205** Miss \* \* \* Has worked nearly three years in the spinning room, and for three months before that at Lowell, Mass. Earned \$3.80 per fortnight, but is now on piece-work, and does not yet know what she can earn. Youngest girls are about twelve, and earn \$2 or \$2.50 a fortnight. Fines of 5 or 10 cents are imposed at the foreman's option for not being there to the moment at 6:30 a.m. The other day saw under-boss kick boys till they cried. Wages are paid fortnightly at 5:30 p.m. No abusive language has been used to her. In Lowell she earned \$8 a month and boarded at home. Bosses there never cursed nor kicked the children, and there were no fines. Fines here are one or two cents a minute. Does not know of girls having been kicked or cuffed.
- 206** Miss \* \* \* Has worked five years in the spinning-room, and till the present fortnight was earning \$3.40 a week. Is now on piece-work, but no scale of payment has thus far been issued by her employers; future earnings at present uncertain. Fines for lateness are 2 cents a minute. Has seen boys kicked by an under-boss till they cried, and has heard them sworn at, but has not herself been ill-treated.
- 207** Miss \* \* \* In carding-room and earns at piece-work, on an average, \$4.50 to \$5 a fortnight, highest earnings being \$6. In carding-room nearly all hands are girls, youngest being about thirteen, and only a few boys. Work begins at 6 a. m. and ends at 6:15 p. m. There are fines for bad work, breaking machinery or playing, but not for lateness. Wages are paid on Thursday up to the previous Saturday, or up to the time of leaving, if notice has been given. Loom-tenders are paid by the factory. Ventilation is good, but drinking water in weaving room is very bad. The foreman never used bad language nor abuses the boys.
- 207** Miss \* \* \* Has worked four years in carding-room and earns \$5 a week.
- 208** Commenced at \$1.50. Youngest hands in room are thirteen or fourteen, and earn \$4.50 a fortnight. The treatment is good, place comfortable, fines few, and boys neither abused nor sworn at by the foreman.
- 208** Miss \* \* \* Is in same room, though not on same work as last witness, and agrees with her evidence as to hours of work and time of payment, age of youngest girls and good treatment of boys by the foreman. As a beginner she earned \$2.50 to \$3 a fortnight, but is now paid \$3.60 a week as wages—not for piece-work. Board for girls costs \$3.50 to \$4 a fortnight.

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HAMILTON, HOWARD H., of *G. J. Hamilton & Sons, New Glasgow.*

- 383** Last week employed forty-one hands, fifteen skilled hands; wages from \$7.50 to \$15 a week. Boys receive first year \$2.50, and at end of year \$25; second year \$3, and \$35 at end of year; third year \$3.50 a week, and \$40 at end of year. On leaving is paid to date, and proportion of the yearly allowance.
- 384** Has eight or nine girls at \$2 a week, of ten hours a day. Bakers go at 5 a.m., and work an extra hour. Skilled bakers get \$7.50 to \$12 a week; foremen, \$12.50; paid once a week, on Saturday night. No labor troubles. Business was started over forty years ago, and is continually growing. Water-closets are divided in two compartments; no room for any other. No partition, except inside, and doors in a line. Some men own their houses; others have money to buy houses, but rents are low. No fines.
- 385** Has a general store, and it is optional to men to deal at it. Men pay accounts to office themselves, and say they get things cheaper.

HAMILTON, CLARENCE, of *G. J. Hamilton & Sons.*

- 387** Is a member of firm, and agrees with what his brother, Howard H. Hamilton, has stated

HARRISON, EDGAR, *Coal cutter, Springhill Mines.*

- 300** Has been at the business seven years. Averaged daily \$1.60 to \$1.65 last year; sometimes makes \$2. Men generally slow.
- 301**

HARRISON, HENRY, *Painter, Halifax.*

- 105** Has been an employer about fifteen years, and on the average employs about ten men. Has three boys, considered as apprentices, but with only a verbal agreement. They generally serve their full time. Men are paid a uniform rate of \$10 a week, as fixed by the Painters' Society, except those capable of graining, paper-hanging, &c., who get an extra dollar. Does not think that a uniform rate would operate against employers if they had a scale of prices, but thinks there should be an annual agreement between employers and employed, fixing the rate of wages before the opening of the busy season, also an understanding among employers as to prices of work. He also thinks that a board of arbitrators could arrange these matters, so as to avoid disputes, and that employers as well as employed should combine. Such a combination would benefit both parties. The men are paid fortnightly, though weekly payments are, he believes, customary. No material difference in painters' wages between St. John and Halifax.
- 107**

HARSHMAN, DANIEL, *Employé, Mayflower Tobacco Factory, Halifax.*

- 70** Has worked twenty-one years in factory. Attends press, and earns \$6.50 per week. It is very light work. Day's work is ten hours, except on Saturday, when he leaves at 4:30 or 5 o'clock. Building is roomy and well ventilated. Has no complaints.

HART, LEVI, *Merchant, Halifax.*

- 135** Has been in the fishing business and West India trade. Much fish is now sent by steamer to the West Indies, the passage being quicker and the fish therefore apt to be in better condition, although freights are higher.

HAYES, NORMAN, *Barrel Manufacturer, Halifax.*

- 52** Makes boxes, fish tubs and sugar barrels. His establishment is the largest of its kind in Nova Scotia, and, including those sent into the woods in winter, employs from forty-six to fifty hands: about twenty coopers, making at piece-work from \$1.20 to \$1.70 per day of eight or nine hours; box-makers are
- 53**

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54 paid monthly, from \$12 to \$20, with board. Some men have been with him twenty-five years. Trade entirely a city one. In the mills is a great deal of machinery, and seven years ago a man was killed, and before that several lost hands or fingers. Since, no fatal accident has occurred. He gets his hoops chiefly from Willisburgh, Ont., as they can be imported cheaper than he can manufacture them. Staves are also imported from Ontario. Last year 130,000 sugar barrels were sold, 20,000 nail kegs and 12,000 fish drums. A first-class cooper can make forty or fifty barrels in ten hours. Through over-competition the lobster-box business is not so good as formerly.

HALL, WILLIAM, *Manager Springhill Mines.*

- 292 Has held position over fourteen years. Over 1,400 men and boys are employed in mines—about 105 underground. Mine has been wholly shut down for
- 293 about ten days a year on an average. Men lose time for want of cars to take coal away on the railroads. Half the men ride up from their work in the box; they are not allowed to do so. The expense of providing facilities for riding up and down would not be great, but cannot get anything to stop cars from running back if anything should happen. Does not employ boys under ten, the youngest being between eleven and a-half and twelve years;
- 294 the law fixes age from ten to twelve years. Boys are employed at opening doors upon the levels—not hard work; they generally have a fair education.
- 295 Probably 150 men have bought property from company, some have paid and some have not. Company owns about 120 tenements, containing three, four and five rooms; three rooms, \$2 per month; four rooms, \$2.50; five rooms,
- 296 the same. Two tenement blocks cost \$600, independent of land. Company pay taxes. Wages have increased since eight years ago—not much difference; pay roll per month \$17,000, \$19,000 and sometimes \$20,000. Charge miners for coal 72 cents to 74 cents per ton. If men were not docked
- 298 for short measure or dirt they would not be so careful. He approves of eight hours system. Price paid for cutting coal is regulated by inspection—25 cents to 80 cents a box of 1,650 lbs. Price arranged after consultation with
- 299 men. Six men were killed last year under ground by falling coal, most of them accidentally. Men do not believe in co-operative stores; had two once.
- 300 Average wages for miners in September and December, 1887 (*See memorandum*). Total days' labor, in a year, 315,911; persons employed, 1,133; average number of days worked by each person, 279; pits worked 275 days; pits idle thirty-eight days; public holidays, ten days.

HEFLER, FRANK, *Soft-bread Baker, Halifax.*

- 181 Has heard previous witnesses in his trade, and agrees with their statements. Considers that soft-bread bakers can do a day's work in ten hours, like other workmen. If they begin work at 6 or 7 in the morning their batch can be got ready for delivery in time to provide the public with fresh bread. No reason, except long custom, for the present long hours.

HENRY, G. P., *Cattle-dealer, Halifax.*

- 144 Has been in cattle trade for thirty years. Cattle now (1st April, 1888) worth about 8 cents per pound without the offal—hide, tallow, head, feet, &c.—which is worth to the purchaser \$1.20 per 100 lbs., and which he gets
- 145 without payment. To make money by shipping cattle to England owner must accompany them, and not rely on agents. In his opinion the trade can only be successfully conducted by shipping dead meat in refrigerator ships and leaving the offal at home. Thinks a very profitable trade can be worked up between Canada, the West Indies and Bermuda, where the 1,270 British troops in garrison (to say nothing of the general population) con-



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- sume a pound of meat each per day, all of which is at present bought in New York. Steamers could make a round trip to and from the island and carry cattle and fish from Halifax. Then, there is the supply of meat for the navy, which should be raised, killed and put up here. At present, cattle are sent to England, killed at Aldershot, and the meat brought to
- 146** Halifax for the navy. General Laurie, M.P., and other gentlemen are now pressing this matter on the Imperial authorities. Between 1st May and 1st November, the navy consumes some hundred thousand pounds of salt meat, all of which is packed in casks at Aldershot. Major Cragie's report of 21st January, to the Royal Agricultural Society of England, entitled: "England's Meat Supply," is the best article yet written on cattle trade. Last year, cattle disease reduced shipments to England both from Canada and the United States. The Lower Provinces are well adapted for sheep raising; no disease among them here. Herefords and black cattle are best for export. People do not want too much fat. They want juicy meat, and will not pay 10s. for fat worth only 2s. Fat stock is useless, for producers, consumers and speculators.

HICKS, RUFUS, *Employé, Shoe Factory, Amherst.*

- 327** Employed in factory about twelve years; wages \$11. Has had no difficulty with employers. Is paid weekly, and is foreman of department. Men can earn from \$6.50 to \$7.50. Three boys are employed, one getting between \$4 and \$5, one \$3, and one \$2.50. Is married, and can save a little. Owns house; paid for out of earnings. Two or three men hold stocks of the company. Premium too high for men to buy up stock and form co-operative concerns. Employers never give holidays—never had one under present manager. If he asked he would unwillingly be allowed to go.

HODGSON, ALEXANDER, *Printer, Halifax.*

- 150** Objects to \$9 (present standard wages) for a weekly hand in Halifax as too low. In St. John they get \$10. Wages paid on the evening paper average between \$12 and \$13 a week; on the morning paper average is from \$15 to \$18 weekly. Feeling between employers and employed in Halifax printing offices has always been good. Men are, he thinks, about to ask an increase of the weekly scale to \$10. Sanitary condition of offices very much improved of late years. Ventilation in office might be improved, although it has lately been rebuilt and is larger and more airy. Windows cannot be opened, as draught affects the lamps and causes smoke.

HODGSON, W. G., *Printer, Halifax.*

- 114** Compositor and job hand; works on an evening paper. Wages, 25 cents per thousand. From eight and a-half to nine and a-half hours composition is the daily average per hand, and \$10.50 the average weekly earnings of a compositor. Compositors on an evening paper have constant employment, but there are many men hanging around the offices as "subs" who do not have steady work.

HOGAN, JOHN, *Baker, Halifax.*

- 173** Begins work at 3 a.m. and finishes at 4, 3, 2 and 1 p.m., last named hour being on a two-batch day. Very seldom works later than 4 p.m., and earns \$8 a week. Many men work as bakers for less than \$6 a week. Difficulties in the trade have been caused by employers paying such low wages that they can sell their bread for 50 cents a dozen, a price at which those who pay their hands good wages cannot compete. Has worked until 11 p.m. without extra pay and has known men to work from 7 or 8 a.m. until 7 or

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8 p.m. and only get half a day's pay. A man can do a good day's work in ten hours, as in that time three men can make up 1,500 loaves of two pounds each. Is satisfied with his own shop, but five years ago knew a place where the sulphur from the ovens caused some men to bleed at the nose. Cannot  
 174 say if still in same condition. No boys employed in the shop. Union has benefited the men by keeping up wages and helping them when sick. They are always complaining of long hours; the work could all be done in the day time. For six rooms in a tenement, he pays \$1.25 a week, taxes included. As a boy, working in Boston twenty-five years ago, he got \$6 a week.

HOGAN, RICHARD, *Baker, Halifax.*

- 170 Is foreman, and earns \$12 a week. Work begins at 3 a.m. and ends at 4, 5  
 171 or 6 p.m., with no fixed limit. Two men in the shop get \$9 a week each; others get \$7 or \$6; all working same hours. No over-time paid for, and no stoppages if a man asks to go anywhere at 3 or 4 o'clock. Average wages outside of foreman's about \$8. Has worked at business thirty-four years. Pays \$1.50 a week for a four-roomed tenement, water and taxes included. His own wages are the same summer and winter, but some of men (those who get drunk in the fall and lose their situation) who, in summer, have been earning \$7, \$7.50 or \$8 a week, work for \$5 or \$6 in winter. Seven years ago there was a strike for higher wages, but the men were starved out and forced to accept less than they had before. No boys in the shop.

HONEY, THOMAS, *Printer, Halifax.*

- 115 Book and job foreman. The standard earnings per week of a job printer in Halifax are \$9, and over, according to skill. Pressmen earn the same. Two women are running presses in Halifax, and also some boys, who are called  
 116 helpers. Boys are taken at between thirteen and fifteen, commencing at \$1.50 per week. Provincial school books are imported, but could be printed equally as well in Halifax.

HOWELL, W. W., *Machinist, Halifax.*

- 49 Has been in business thirty-two years and employs about twelve men, eight of whom are skilled mechanics, earning about \$10 a week of ten hours a day.  
 50 Men are paid weekly, on Saturday. Night work is paid double prices. Never  
 49 had any labor trouble. Laborers are paid \$1.25 a day and sometimes \$1.50.  
 50 Shop comfortable and well ventilated, but there are no conveniences on the premises.

HUMPHREY, BENJAMIN, *Heater, N. S. Forge Co., New Glasgow.*

- 398 Wages from \$2 to \$3.25 a day by the piece; fair average from \$2.25 to \$2.50, with constant work all the year round. Owns a house, purchased out of earnings, nearly. Is satisfied with employers, wages, &c. Sanitary conditions all right.

HUTT, ALEXANDER, *Carriage Builder, Dartmouth.*

- 158 Has been eight years in business and employs eight men; blacksmiths get \$1.25 a day and other men from \$1.50 to \$1.85; his heavy wood-worker gets \$1.50. His springs are made in St. John. Ontario carriages compete  
 159 with his output more than he likes. Oak, ash and birch are of Nova Scotian growth; white ash costs \$40 a thousand; birch from \$10 to \$15. Has had a strike for wages among his men. They work ten hours a day and are paid weekly, on Saturdays, in cash. No hands in town, so far as he knows, are paid in store orders, or anything but cash. Men are steady and sober; would not keep a drinking man. No liquor is sold in Dartmouth under license, though it can be got across the harbour, in Halifax.

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INGRAM, H. J., *Superintendent Rolling Mill, Londonderry Works.*

- 263** Two-hundred men employed, more or less. Average wages of puddlers,  
**264** \$2.60 to \$3.00 a day ; heaters the same. Men at finishing trains, \$4 to \$5  
 a day ; laborers, \$1.04. Average work, from ten to twelve hours a day.  
 Six or eight boys are employed, from ten to fifteen years of age, and do not  
 often do laborious work, but inattention might lead to accidents. They  
**265** work about an hour at a time. Company pays a little higher wages than  
 in the States, with hours about the same. Thinks men are steadier here  
 than in other places he has been to. Cannot say if men were paid fort-  
 nightly it would be of any benefit to them. On the whole, they appear to  
**266** be contented. Would prefer any difficulty between manager and men set-  
 tled by arbitration.

JACKSON, WILLIAM, *Veterinary Surgeon, Halifax.*

- 138** No horses sold from this part of the country for the British cavalry, a dif-  
 ferent class of breeding horses being needed for that market. Horses for  
**139** this purpose can be raised in Nova Scotia equal to any in the Dominion if  
 stock were here. Government should import some first-class horses and brood  
 mares. Horned cattle have improved very much, and many farmers are  
 paying more attention to stock than to grain and roots. Nova Scotia can  
 compete with other countries in this respect.

JONES, PATRICK, *Employé, Weaving-room, Halifax Cotton Factory.*

- 131** Is a weaver, and has four looms. Can earn at piece-work, running full  
**132** time, \$8 or \$9 a fortnight. Is employed in making plain cotton goods, and  
 gets 18½ cents to 27 cents a cut, according to quality ; it averages about 22  
 cents per cut of 50 yards. One cut per loom can sometimes be done in a  
 day. As a rule, it is easy work to run four looms, though at times pretty  
 hard. The cotton is sometimes damaged by machine not having been  
 properly cleaned, and then the weaver is fined. Is seventeen, and has  
 worked between three and four years in factory.

JONES, WILLIAM, *Forge Roller, Londonderry Iron Works.*

- 257** Works all day from 5:30 a.m. to 4 to 4:30 p.m., and receives 17 cents per ton,  
 average day's work being about \$2.75. Is employed the year round. Pays \$3.50  
 per week board and washing ; also pays poor rates, county and school  
 taxes, and doctor 40 cents per month. Wages for rolling, 17 cents a ton ;  
 roughing, 11 cents ; catching on the roughing, 10 cents ; and catching on  
 the finish, 8 cents a ton.

JOHNSTON, A. M., *Carpenter, Londonderry Iron Co.*

- 256** Agrees with testimony of Mr. McEachern. Pays \$3 per week for board,  
 little more than in other places, with wages rather smaller. Works ten  
 hours a day. Carpenters earn from \$1.28 or \$1.30 a day, paid monthly ;  
**257** some would like to be paid weekly, some fortnightly, some monthly ; to him  
 it would make no difference. Is satisfied with the work, but not the pay.

JOHNSTON, MAURICE, *Coal-cutter, Stellarton.*

- 335** Employed in Drummond Mine since 1881, with exception of eight or nine  
 months. Gets up at 6 in the morning and home at 3:30 ; some cutters stay  
**336** till 5 o'clock or until finished. Cutters try to make \$2 a day ; cannot give  
 average. Manager has fixing of rates, and sometimes consults the men who  
 are not always satisfied with the rate. When times are dull and men plenty,  
 the master absolutely fixes the price ; when times are good and men not



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- plenty, when they can command a fair price, they sometimes get it on strike. Helpers are paid by the men \$1.30 a day. Boys drive underground at twelve years of age, and keep driving untill eighteen, sometime. Those attending doors get 50 cents a day; when he begins to drive, 10 cents more. Have known them to get \$1 a day for running and caging, and when they get into loading, \$1.30 a day. Not long ago had difference with employers with reference to reduction of wages; the men had to take what was offered, the manager not listening to proposal for arbitration. He would like to have a Government Board of Arbitrators—workingmen to have one representative. When gas has accumulated in mines it has been through carelessness on somebody's part; endeavor to get mines free from gas. With few exceptions, no open lamps are used. Quite a number own their own houses, and those having to pay rent think they pay more than is fair. Some pay \$2.50 a month—some with four rooms, some with two; about the same rent to company as outsiders. Coals half price to miners and cutters, 60 cents a load of 12 bushels, exclusive of hauling, which is according to distance; thinks \$1.20 a ton. Living cheaper than in Halifax. Cost of house of \$2.50 a month is worth \$200 to build, and is on blocks on a level with ground or a little above. No outhouses or drain, unless dug by tenant.
- Does not know of any docking for dirt and short weight. Is paid twice a month. Not many complaints as to mode of payment; some would prefer by the week—he would. Might entail a little expense to company, but would benefit the men by being able to buy for ready money. No sick fund and no assistance in case of sickness or death. Men would like to have one. Company supplies powder, but can buy anywhere they like.
- Doctor's fee optional; thinks it is 42 cents. Considers that workingmen should have first lien on mine for wages before mortgage; roughly estimated, in Nova Scotia men have lost \$100,000 for lack of a law to give him his wages. Men have no claim. He objects to garnisheeing wages and would like an Employers' Liability Act, as in England, in case of accidents through no fault of men. No damages allowed for Drummond colliery accidents. About 300 men and boys are employed in the mine—about 80 or 90 boys.

JOHNSTON, PRESCOTT, *Agent or Manager of the International Co.'s Mine, Little Glace Bay.*

- Has been eight years in the mine, four years as agent. Company own about eighty-six houses and rent thirteen or fourteen. Charge men \$1.50 a month for a plastered house and \$1 for a ceiled one. Generally four rooms on the two floors. Every man and boy of the 400 or 500 on the books is charged 30 cents a month for school tax. Married men pay 40 cents a month for doctor, and single men and boys 30 cents. This entitles them to attendance and medicine.
- Child births are \$4 extra. Doctor is appointed by agreement with men. In giving employment no preference shown to house tenants of company. No fines, except when a man sends up all slack he loses part of it, which seldom occurs. Legal minimum age for boys is thirteen, and are always questioned on this point before employing them. No serious accidents or explosions have occurred in the mine. No expenses paid by company to injured men, nor is there a benefit society among them, which company would willingly subscribe to if established. Men are paid for cutting coal according to seam, from 38 to 43 cents per ton of everything sent up, slack, round—the run of the mine, as it is called. Men leaving without notice get due bills for full pay, payable on the 15th of the month. In winter the men get 7 cents a ton less for banking than in summer, when company can put the coal right into the cars. In a letter addressed to the Commissioners the following particulars taken from the books of company are given in reply to certain questions asked: Total days' work for miners in 1887, 8,317 days; total

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wages paid miners, \$48,376.93; deductions for oil, \$154.40; for powder, \$2,110.67; for doctor, \$1,182.63; for school, \$1,006.20; school tax assessed on company, \$1,150.04—showing a loss of \$143.84. Wages given above are for miners or coal-cutters only, the total amount of wages being \$92,235.02. Men can buy oil and powder either from company or store-keepers, as most of them did last year. Half rates are charged for rent during January, February and March.

JOHNSTON, WILLIAM, *House Painter, Halifax.*

- 119 The statement of Mr. Kennedy confirmed as to wages and hours, viz.; \$8 weekly for eight hours a day and \$10 for ten hours. Complains of excessive number of boys employed. Two men have been in a shop with nine boys, while good mechanics, with families, were walking about in fine weather. When men are discharged boys are kept on for rough work, at from \$1 a week for beginners to \$2. Has known boys three years at the trade earning only \$1.50. One boy to five men or three boys to ten or twelve men in the busy season would be enough. Men handy with the brush who have been seamen, book-binders, butchers, &c., come in and take the rough work out of skilled hands, as they work cheaper. No indentured apprentices in Halifax; thinks such a system should be introduced and made compulsory, better workmen would thus be made. This is the general opinion among the trade in Halifax, as far as he has heard. (*See Kennedy.*)
- 120

KEATING, E. H., *City Engineer and Engineer of Sewers and Waterworks, Halifax.*

- 97 Can give no information whatever as to the sanitary condition of the tenement houses in Halifax; it was the duty of health inspectors to look after such places. Permanent foreman of Board of Works gets \$880 a year, and temporary foreman \$10 a week. Hardly any of the sewer and water pipes work is done by contract, city paupers and other day laborers being employed. Prefers this system to contract work, not only as finding employment for men who must otherwise be kept in idleness, but as less liable to be "scamped" than contract work. Corporation laborers work ten hours a day, and are paid weekly, at the rate of 10 cents an hour.
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KENNEDY, THOMAS, *Painter, Halifax.*

- 117 Gets average city wages of \$10 a week for full time and \$8 for slack time. Most of men lose about three months yearly. Too many boys; some shops where fifteen or twenty men are employed having eight boys, very few of whom remain long enough to learn the trade thoroughly, being discouraged by the low wages. Men come to Halifax, during the busy season, from other parts of Nova Scotia, most of whom are inferior hands. Wages have not risen for five years but rent and housekeeping have greatly increased in cost. The outsiders (laboring men) find work for about three months and then go home. Thinks introduction of an indentured apprenticeship system would help the painters. No such system at present exists in Halifax and boys have to teach themselves the business, there being no one else to teach them. Rent and other necessities are dearer than they were five or ten years ago, except shoes and clothing. A tenement of three or four rooms costing \$5 a month ten years ago costs \$8 now.
- 118

KILLEEN, JOHN, *Cotton Spinner, Halifax.*

- 124 Is fifteen years of age and has worked a year in the Halifax Cotton Mill on piece-work, earning some fortnights \$3 and some \$2.50. Youngest boys are ten years old, and do "doffing;" hours from 6:15 a.m. to 6:15 p.m., with an hour for dinner: in summer they work to 7:15 p.m., on Saturday leave at 12:45. Fines for being late and for being away from work—sometimes
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5 cents and sometimes 10 cents; also fines for spoiling work. Some boys have been fined up to \$1 in a fortnight; foreman fixes the amount. Youngest girls between ten and eleven, and get from \$3 to \$3.50 a fortnight. Neither boys nor girls are ever whipped, or cuffed, or spoken to in bad language. Spinning loom not very dusty, yet in summer, with windows open, it is sometimes suffocating to work there. Boys get nothing for working half an hour later or in their dinner hour, but if the machinery goes wrong they do not have to work after time to make it up.

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KIMBER, F. C., *Manager and Superintendent of Sydney and Louisbourg Coal and Ry. Co.*

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Company operates one mine—the Reserve Mine. From 150 to 250 men and boys are employed, according to busy time of year: about ninety cutters; thirty-seven boys; laborers, fifteen below and eighteen on the surface. Laborers get 90 cents to \$1 and \$1.10, reduced 10 cents in winter; same hours winter and summer; slight difference in pay of those working below.

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A boy going as a trapper gets 35 cents as a rule, but gets more when a driver. Drivers get 80 cents a day; cutters 38 cents a ton in summer for riddled coal and 32 cents in winter for unriddled coal. If checker thinks too much slack is being sent up one-fifth of the tub is fined. Fines pretty frequent. Miners' time would aggregate 200 days all round, and average earnings \$1.90 a day gross; gross amount per day of deductions about 15 cents. Men provide lamps; company sharpens and supplies all tools. Men walk up and down slope, not allowed to ride; slope is 1,200 feet at longest side and 800 or 900 on the other; not very steep; no stairs; never contemplated necessity of carrying men up and down. Pay men once a month, and small sums in advance. Company keeps no store and supplies no goods to men, and there is no store in which manager or any official is interested. They can trade where they like; company accepts orders from stores if money coming to cover them, and stop it from the men and pay it to the store. Company

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own houses and rent at \$1 to \$1.25: two rooms on ground floor for \$1.25, kept in good repair. Forty cents a month deducted from pay for schools from married men, 25 cents single men, all the year round; company collects for schooling of men's children, provides school buildings and pays no school taxes in district. Pays county rates \$800 or \$900, and thinks property assessed at \$75,000. No notice given or required on dismissal or leaving, and men paid in full by a due bill next day. Three or four men own houses. No provident fund for injuries; suggested one three or four years ago but nothing was done. Would be considerable inconvenience to pay fortnightly; would not be an advantage to men. There are two stores at the Reserve Mine. Had stoppage at mine last year for increase of wages for cutters, but men resumed work without getting it. Has always been able to settle with men himself. Takes boys at thirteen years; usually asks their age; parents generally ask for the work.

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Those living in company's houses get first show for work. Men generally sober. If the collieries were connected by rail with Louisbourg, which is a winter port, coal could be shipped at the idle time of the year. The new railway ends at Sydney, thirty-three miles from Louisbourg. There are ten miles of a three-foot gauge railway in operation between the two places, and passing within a few miles of the chief collieries, which at little cost could be made a first-class road. Harbor is sometimes closed by drift ice but not so as to impede the shipment of coal. More coal could be shipped, and miners more constantly employed at better wages. Louisbourg would then be a central coaling port for steamers from the cotton States, while steamers from the Gulf of St. Lawrence would call at Sydney. Coal supply practically inexhaustible. When the new road is built Spring Hills'

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geographical position will put it ahead of Cape Breton in quantity of output.

KNIVETON, JOHN, *Superintendent of Winding, Weaving and Warping room, Halifax Cotton Factory.*

- 76 Has worked in mills here and in England since he was ten years old. Was engaged in England by company in 1882 at \$15 a week, which has since been raised to \$16. Children of eleven get \$1 a week as reelers, which is hard work; four are thus employed. When twelve become tenderers, and learn weaving by waiting on weavers. Women earn, by the piece, from \$2.50 to \$3.50 a week as winders. Warpers are paid by the day, and earn from \$4 to \$6 a week. Women running three looms make about 60 cents a day on piece-work. Price per cut is from 18½ to 26 cents, and they can do a cut a day on each loom; many can manage four looms; some can run six, thus making, at 20 cents per loom, \$1.20 a day. Beginners under fifteen or sixteen will run two looms. Youngest girl weaving about fourteen. Tenderers or learners are paid by the weavers, on whom they wait, \$1 a week out of their own wages. Average age of winders and warpers about twenty; youngest seventeen. About half the weavers have from four to six looms; a girl starting as a tenderer can, in twelve months, if smart, run four looms. Fines are inflicted for bad work and gross carelessness, such as breaking machinery. In the latter case are fined \$1; no fine imposed for accidents or anything that weaver could not avoid. Imperfections in cloth are fined from 5 cents to 50 cents, the latter being an extreme case. If defect is due to bad quality of the yarn, no fine. Most fining is in the weaving-room, and fines are imposed more or less every day.
- 78 After the cloth leaves weaving-room no defect can be rectified, and damaged part is sold at a loss. Weavers' wages about the same as in England, perhaps a little higher. Women and men weavers are paid at the same rate. Rent for factory operatives much lower in England than here. Had a house of five rooms with cellar for 4s. 6d. a week, which would cost \$110 or \$120 a year here. A house for 3s. a week in England would be \$2 here. Ton of coal of 2,240 lbs. in Lancashire costs 8s., and a first-class suit of clothes, 35s.; flour and other provisions, except butcher's meat, much the same; rent, fuel and clothes much dearer here. Factory hands in England can get work at almost any time, and can dress and live quite as well on their wages as they can here, if sober and capable. Nova Scotians are as sober as the English hands; but beginning, as a rule, much older, they do not take to the work so kindly. It is only of late years that Halifax people would allow their children to go to the factory.
- 79

LAMPHIER, A., *Carriage-maker, Halifax.*

- 191 Pays blacksmiths, wood-workers and upholsterers \$9 each a week of sixty hours; painters get \$10, every Saturday, cash and in full. Spokes from Ontario are not so dry, and therefore not as fit for immediate use as those from the States, but are made of just as good wood as American. Upper Province hubs are first-class. Ironwork is made in Halifax; springs come from St. John, N.B., and other places in Canada; trimmings from Montreal, where they are 25 per cent. cheaper than elsewhere. Carriages or parts of carriages coming to Halifax from other Provinces in Canada do not, to any extent, interfere with his trade. Leather, enamelled, from Montreal, is cheaper than from the States, and is very good, but may lack a little in color. In paints
- 192 Canadian leads and varnishes rank next in quality to American and English brands. The price of carriage-making materials and the wages paid are nearly the same as ten years ago.
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LARKINS, JOSEPH, *Biscuit-maker, Halifax.*

- 176 Is eleven years old, and worked for seven weeks in a biscuit factory for \$1 a week, which was afterwards raised to \$1.25. Was first a packer and then a brusher of dough from the machinery, in which his hand got caught; has  
 177 already lost one finger, and will probably lose another. Another boy, same size as himself, was also employed in factory. Nothing has been given him  
 176 by his employers since the accident, nine weeks before, beyond paying him for the week in which he was hurt on the Thursday. Does not know who paid the doctor.

LE BLANC, HON. HECTOR, *M. L. C., Halifax.*

- 224 Resides at Arichat, C.B., in which locality the most extensive fishing business is that of Messrs Robin & Co. Shore fisheries of late years have greatly fallen off, owing, fishermen say, to trawls on the banks keeping fish from coming in. Men in boats make only a bare living, and though they have land only partly cultivate it. If the St. Lawrence canals were deepened to 14 feet Cape Breton coal could be sent profitably to Ontario. It costs \$1 a ton to get coal out of the pit. Men on fishing vessels are mostly paid in goods at a pretty high rate, and very often before fish are caught. Often complain they could do better if they got cash instead of goods. Sale of bait to American schooners supplied them with most of the cash they get.  
 225 Cape Breton produces much barley, oats and potatoes for home consumption; wheat crop is small. If Straits of Belle Isle were closed it would make a material difference in the spring. Some years the shore is covered with ice from the Straits, up to 10th or 15th June. Has advocated closing the Straits in Parliament. He protests against the precedence given by harbor regulations to steam colliers over sailing coal ships. A sailing ship may have nearly completed loading her cargo, but as soon as a steamer comes in she has to lay off until the steam collier is loaded, without any claim for demurrage. Thinks it very wrong that any collier, whether propelled by sail or steam, should have precedence over another.

LESSEL, ARTHUR C., *President Carpenters' Union, Halifax.*

- 36 Has been a carpenter for thirty years, and considers condition of carpenters considerably better than it was twenty or thirty years ago, when \$1.50 was considered good wages. Best wages now, \$1.75 a day; foremen get more. Rent is considerably higher, and poor accommodation. A  
 37 tenement flat of two fair rooms, 14 feet square, and three small bedrooms, costs \$100 a year. Unskilled labor has crept in and destroyed the trade, especially during the busy season. In this trade most money is in rough work, and if unskilled workmen can be got to do it, it is better for the employer. The only way to meet difficulty is to have a law passed to  
 38 have all apprentices indentured. As it is now, a smart boy picks up a smattering of the business quickly and then thinks he knows it all, and hires out as journeyman; some parts he can do and some he cannot, and that is the reason why there are so many unskilled men. If indentured the employers would be compelled to keep them until properly trained. Improved condition of carpenters during the last ten or fifteen years is due altogether to the labor organization. It has increased wages to what they are, and will probably increase them more. Were the hours shortened surplus labor would be used up, wages would rise, and there would be more time for recreation and improvement of their homes. Men could also take advantage of the drawing-school. Considering present habits, were the hours shortened does not think they would drink more than now. In

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- 39** summer a number of farming men and fishermen come in, chiefly from a village called Chezzetcook, on the east coast of Halifax county, and offer to do shingling and other out-door work. They work so cheaply as to lower rates for skilled men, though very often those who employ them have to get the work done over by skilled hands. Sobriety is one of the main provisions of the labor organization, which is a benefit to the employer and to the community. Not supposed to take in any man who is not capable of earning average wages, though all the men are not first-class. Standard of skill, like average wages, is low. Favors the eight hour system in all branches of work, including agriculture.
- 40**

LING, THOS., *Trimming Superintendent, Little Glace Bay.*

- 474** To trim a ship of 1,000 tons fourteen men, with some ships more, would be required. Lights used are at ship's cost. The charge for trimming is from
- 475** 5 to 6 cents per ton, of which the agent of the company gets 1 cent. He collects and pays out the trimmage money, and the men think him overpaid, and that to give him an equal show with each man employed would be sufficient. Trimmers work about 160 days yearly, the greatest pay being about \$3 and the smallest 40 or 50 cents. The work is very hard, and sometimes begins at 3 or 4 a.m., to suit the tide. There are no serious accidents. At the International Mine the men are paid \$1 to \$1.50 a day, and when not trimming have to work about the wharf.
- 476** Trimmers who are on shares will average about \$1.25 a day. In 1887, the best year since 1873, they earned a little over \$300. Previous years the average was under \$200. The dust is sometimes very bad, and there is no time to use a sponge to keep it from the lungs, or to come on deck for fresh air. No danger of the cargo shifting, it being trimmed up against the beams.

LOCKMAN, RICHARD, *Checker, North Sydney Mines, Cape Breton.*

- 407** Looks on while man records weight of coal, and is paid so much by each man. Company pays him nothing. Has been employed six years. Also serves them with tools and looks after the coals and their interests. If coal
- 408** not clean company takes off half ton to tub; box weighs from 1,200 to 1,800 lbs sometimes from 1,900 to 2,000 lbs. Men have spoken against the deduction.
- 409** Hires a tenement at \$2.50 a month, and pays 67 cents a load for coal, including hauling; the public pay the same. Men complain of lamps being bad. House not very comfortable. Pays \$1.13 a year school tax, also poor and road taxes—in all about \$2.50 a year. Doctor's fee 40 cents a month, with medicine for family man; single, 25 cents; lying-in cases, \$4. Voluntary subscription to minister. Men go down in cages in a shaft made for that purpose and tackle is inspected every morning by inspector.

LONGARD, CHARLES, *Secretary N. S. Building Society, Halifax.*

- 25** Object of the society to provide a fund from the savings of its members, from which advances are made for any purpose, to members only, on real estate security. Society is rather a loan society than a building one. A share costs \$240, subscription being \$2.40 a month. Loans are put up at auction among members. Not more than two-thirds of the value, ascertained by an investigating committee, is advanced. Thus far loans have not been made out of Nova Scotia, though the charter from the Dominion Government empowers the company to lend money anywhere in the Maritime Provinces. Six per cent. interest is paid; \$450,000 now invested in mortgage, and since 1850, when the society was formed, losses have been from \$75,000 to \$80,000; 15 per cent. is the highest dividend yet declared. Objects of the society not to pay high
- 26**



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interest, but rather to reduce the rate to the borrower to 6 per cent., and give that to the investor. A good many workingmen in the society, both as borrowers and investors; latter secured on the whole of the society's assets.

LOWNER, GEORGE, *Halifax Cotton Factory.*

- 209** Is assistant foreman in the carding-room. About forty-five women work there, youngest being about thirteen or fourteen. When engaging, their ages are asked by manager. Lowest wages paid girls by the week, working full time in carding-room, is \$2.50; highest, \$3.60. Choice of girls to be put on piece-work is left to discretion of the carders. Boys earn \$1.50 to \$2.50 a week; youngest in fifteenth year. At 6.25 a.m. horn is blown for five minutes; those arriving after it stops are fined 2 cents; if more than five minutes, five cents. Fines also for breakage and stoppage of machinery, if caused through fault of workers. Both sexes have separate closets with separate entrances. The present manager has removed the drinking water to the lower flat. Neither foreman nor assistants use abusive language to either girls or boys. Over-time is paid at day rates, the longest over-time being two hours. One hour is allowed for dinner, when the machinery is stopped, and those who bring their dinner eat it in the workroom. No ventilators, and present manager has forbidden opening of windows, as being injurious to the works. Summer temperature of room is thus raised from 72° (as it was under former manager) to 84° and over. There is a great deal of dust. Doors open outwards, and there are plenty of fire-escapes.

McAINSH, ANDREW, *Painter, Halifax.*

- 116** Painter, white-washer and glazier. Union rates for painters working ten hours a day in summer is \$10 a week. Grainers, decorators and paper-hangers get the same. Little over six months is the average length of steady work for painters during the year. For a short time \$8 is paid. During idle season painters work on wharves, drive cabs, or trucks, &c. Some trouble with employers took place three years ago about boys, whose number is not fixed by Union. Wages no better than fifteen or eighteen years ago. Many idle painters in Halifax, supply being livelier than the demand. Shops are three months busy, and then slack off. Erect own scaffolding; no accidents through bad construction. He believes that some men, ordinary brush hands, work for less than \$10 a week.

McCARTHY, SAMUEL, *Baker, Dartmouth.*

- 166** Has worked twenty-five years as a baker, and earns \$7 a week the year round, hours being from 3 a.m. until 6 p.m. Shops are comfortable and well ventilated, and the sulphur arising from coal used in the ovens is now remedied. Time is allowed for breakfast, and usually an hour for dinner.
- 167** Average earnings of bread-makers in Halifax, \$8. If a man is absent from sickness, and others have to work longer, they sometimes, but not always, receive extra pay.

McCLAY, EDWIN; *Dominion Immigration Agent, Halifax.*

- 58** Appointed in 1884. Last year 10,674 immigrants landed in Halifax, about 2,000 of whom remained in Nova Scotia; of the others perhaps 600 or 800 went to the Western States, but the majority went to western Canada and the North-West, the residue to different points in Canada. Most of the immigrants had considerable means, many women and children being among them. They were a refined, well-behaved class, mostly farmers and farm laborers. About 600 children were sent out by associations, chiefly

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to Toronto, Belleville, Niagara and Knowlton. None of the passengers were thrown upon charity, having means to help themselves after landing, although the majority had probably received assistance towards their ocean passage. Quite a number took up farms in Hants and Yarmouth counties, Nova Scotia. One has cleared from fifteen to twenty acres at Forest Glen, Colchester, is married and has two sons and a daughter; has built a good house, with cellar 28 by 15 feet, of the stones taken off his farm.

60 He had between £300 and £400 capital. More accommodation for immigrants is needed at Halifax. Waiting-room holds about 300, and 1,700 are due. No fires in building, either for warmth or cooking. For want of a receiving room women and children sit on boxes all night. No suspicious characters are allowed in buildings, the police being constantly on duty.

61 Immigrants sometimes have to wait ten hours. The railway and steamship people also have men to protect them from swindlers. Few mechanics among them, this class being neither encouraged nor assisted to come to Canada.

MCCORMAC, JOHN, *Ex-storekeeper, General Mining Association, Cape Breton.*

- 436 Held position over eighteen years. Credit system induces men to buy more than they otherwise would; many have very little coming to them at end of month. Majority get in debt in winter, and in summer pay proportion of winter debt. Thinks fortnightly pay would be an advantage to men.
- 437 If a man had cash he could buy all the time from country people cheaper than from the stores.

MCDONALD, A. C., *Tanner, New Glasgow.*

- 386 Employs from forty-five to fifty hands this time of year—sixty in summer. Skilled hands receive \$7.50 a week; unskilled \$6, from that to \$9; two besides the foreman get that for ten hours a day, and are paid every two weeks, in full and in cash. He owns some houses which men occupy; highest rent \$1 a week—from 75 cents to \$1—small houses, four or five rooms.
- 387 Men have never asked to be paid weekly. Some of the men own houses, and thinks some have saved money.

MCDONALD, DANIEL, *Coal-cutter in International Mine.*

- 443 Works in pit nine hours a day. \*Goes down about 6:30 a.m. and comes up between 4 and 5 p.m. Thinks he works seven months a year, during the other five generally idle. When working full time would earn of clear money between \$1.50 to \$1.75 per day. Pays out of that for powder, oil, rent, coal, doctor and school—doctor and school 70 cents. Company sharpens tools and supplies picks. Has to buy lamps. Is paid monthly and gets credit if money spent before end of month. Rents company's house—three rooms, including up-stairs—\$1.50 a month; some pay only \$1. Not many miners own houses, but a good many own farms. House is well
- 444 drained and pretty well finished; very good wells; sickness occasionally round the place.

MCDONALD, F., *Employé, Rhodes, Curry & Co., Amherst.*

- 325 Has been employed three years, at \$12 a week. Men are paid according to worth. No Carpenter's Union. Is married, and pays \$5 per month rent for a comfortable house, worth from \$1,400 to \$1,500; pays \$10 per month rent and lets out one part; thinks he could live cheaper in Truro.
- 326

MCDONALD, HUGH, *Trimmer, Glace Bay Mines.*

- 473 Is paid 5 to 6 cents a ton. Does not work in winter, and cannot say how much he earns. No night-work. Owns house, bought out of earnings.

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- 474** Gets pay from captains through the office, agreement being made with manager. Works from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. When not at work stays at home. From six to eight or ten hands are required to trim a vessel. The 5 cents is divided amongst the ten men. Biggest day's pay ever earned \$2 or \$2.50, and is perfectly satisfied with arrangement.

McDONALD, JOHN, *Overseer of City Works, Halifax.*

- 185** Unskilled laborers get from \$1 to \$1.25, average being \$1.10 a day of ten hours. There is not much work in winter. Bricklayers and masons are paid from 25 to 30 cents an hour; carpenter work by contract. Men are paid every Friday night up to the previous Wednesday. Some city laborers have saved money and some have bought houses. No mechanics, so far as known, have ever applied for work as laborers. Has been employed by the corporation for thirty-five years, beginning as an unskilled laborer at 80 cents a day. He now owns a house valued at \$1,600, the taxes on which are \$23 and the water rates \$10.40. A tenement of three or four rooms rents, according to locality, at from \$1.25 to \$1.50 a week. No labor troubles among the laborers.
- 186**

McDONALD, PATRICK, *Employé, Mayflower Tobacco Manufactory, Halifax.*

- 64** Has worked in factory since 1863, and is now in charge of a room at \$7 a week. Children of ten, fourteen and fifteen are employed. No fines or punishments, and the place is comfortable. Men and women work on different floors, and have conveniences separated by a board partition.
- 65** Factory doors, including the stairway door, open inwards. About seventy-five men are employed.

McDUGALL, CLARENCE B., *Wholesale Grocer, Wine Merchant and Distiller, Halifax.*

- 189** Employs nine persons in his general business, who work from 8 in the morning until 7 p.m. Clerks get from \$400 to \$800; book-keepers from \$500 to \$1,000; wages paid in cash every Saturday evening. Imports from Great Britain and West Indies, and his market is confined to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

McEACHERN, ANGUS, *Miner, Londonderry Mines.*

- 254** Employed in company about twenty-seven years—since a boy. About seventy-five skilled miners are employed and probably about 150 or 200 hands. Quite a number of boys are employed to help men, but none under fifteen years. Wages of boys range from \$15 to \$18 and \$20 per month; from fifteen to eighteen years of age, 45 to 75 cents per day. Miners are paid both by the day and by the ton, wages being \$1.28 and \$1.19, according to skill. Day and night work, both nine hours. Fair day's earnings, by the ton, \$1.50. Rent for company's houses from \$2.50 to \$4 per month. All employés, including boys, pay 45 cents per month to doctor. There is an accident fund, the subscription being 10 cents per month. Men come up shaft every day for dinner, and go back same way. In case of accident no reward or remuneration from company. Cannot tell age of youngest boy. No law to prevent boys entering mine at any age.
- 255**
- 256**

McGILLVRAY, ALEX., *Miner, Little Glace Bay Mine.*

- 444** About forty-five pairs of men employed; is a coal-cutter; average
- 445** hours from 6 a.m. to 4 or 5:30 p.m. Is paid per ton, from 41 to 43 cents, according to thickness. From April to September, 1887, earned \$198.60. Pays for powder, oil, doctor, school, and rent. In March



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- 446** earned \$25 or \$26. Wages about the same as in other mines. Quite a number own houses. He rents company's house for \$1.50 a month. Two wells. Thirty or forty families live around. Not a privy for each family, but there is one on the premises owned by the company. Is paid monthly, but thinks fortnightly would be a benefit. Men complain of fortnightly payments. Belongs to Miners' Association. Thinks president owns store. Amount expended by men taken out of monthly payment, but it makes no difference if they do not deal there; could do better with cash. When on short time most men run into debt. Thinks there are fifteen or sixteen drivers, and three or four cutters. Trappers get from 40 to 50 cents a day; drivers, 50 to 70 cents; laborers, 30 cents. Pays doctor 40 cents and school tax 15 cents a month. Does not think the school tax legal. Has spoken to manager, but he would not allow it. Besides school tax, he pays statute labor, \$1; poll-tax, \$1; poor rates, 30 cents. Average wages, \$242 a year. Last July, 1887, he cut 66½ tons of coal, and was credited with \$33.38, and 2 cubic yards, \$1.60, total, \$35.13. Against this was charged: rent, \$1.50; coal, 25 cents, about two loads; oil, 80 cents; powder, \$3.24; school, 15 cents; doctor, 40 cents; tallow, 30 cents; store account, \$28.49—not so much every month. Creditor and debtor balanced. No cash that month; same on many occasions. Youngest boys not under twelve, and are well treated. (See account of earnings.) School tax a fixed sum, and stopped in company's office. Men's impression that it is collected without authority. Last year miners, for the first time, had a voice in the election of school trustees. One miner was elected. Submits memo, of earnings of two men men last year—\$334.55 each; also, a memo. of two other men—\$150.19½, each. Cannot account for difference. Coal may have been easier or better. (See memo. submitted.)

McINNES, JOHN, of *McIntosh & McInnes, Builders, Halifax.*

- 27** Firm employs from twenty to 100 hands. Deals in lumber as well as builders. Journeymen carpenters average \$1.60 a day; foremen \$1.75 to \$2; some men, not professing to be good mechanics, get from \$1.25 to \$1.50; laborers average \$1.10 to \$1.25. Men taking charge of lumber business on wharf get \$8 a week all the year round, for ten hours a day in summer and eight in the winter. Men are very temperate; no labor troubles have occurred. Some of them have been in the firm's employ from fifteen to eighteen years. No boys are bound under indenture; they get, as beginners, \$1.50, rising 50 cents a week each year. No joiners are working at the bench for less than \$1.60 a day.

McINTYRE, DUNCAN, *Caledonia Coal Mine, Cape Breton.*

- 452** About 160 men employed, perhaps 20 boys; average laborers, about 25. Men are their own masters and come up when they like. Ready with tools at 6 a. m., but may be 7 before they get down; he comes up from 2:30 to 5:30 or 6; works about eight months of twenty-two days in the year; during the other four months does nothing. Thinks ten tons a good day's work for one pair of men. Shovels at 33 cents per ton in summer and 28 cents a cubic yard in banking season. In June, 1887, gross earnings \$29.75: deducted for powder and oil, \$2.84; sundries, \$1.90; store, \$20.23; weighman, 35 cents; cash advanced, \$5; balance, \$4.18. Is paid fortnightly, and sometimes gets money between times. Thinks store belongs to manager. Clerk told him it was optional to deal at store, but when he got work it was on the understanding that he would take goods during banking season. In spring men get flour, tea, oatmeal and molasses from store. Is married, and does not live in company's house; cannot get as good a house from other persons

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- as from company; their rents lower. Mr. McKeen told him only men who  
**454** had claims on him were those who lived in his houses. He looked at one and found the well about 40 or 50 feet from stables; rent \$1.50 a month. No cellar but a hole in the floor about 18 inches deep; no drain; tenants had been quarantined with diphtheria for four weeks. No more than a day or two's notice required on leaving; gets due bill for amount of wages. Single man pays 50 cents a month for doctor. Is married man with family, and does not pay doctor's fee, as he did not attend him when he met with an accident, as he lived a mile from colliery; believes he is not the only one who does not pay. Does not pay school taxes, because he is a ratepayer; others pay 15 cents; men who pay school tax pay \$1 poll and county taxes—that is the law. Youngest children working in mine, nine and ten, generally trappers. Fine of \$5 for plugging coal instead of picking.  
**455** Paid monthly; thinks it a disadvantage; one-third is kept back, so have to wait a month and a-half for pay when first taken on. Being so paid only store to deal at, and pays higher than at other stores for cash: flour, \$6.25 a barrel—cash, \$5.50; tea, 35 cts. and 22 cents to 30 cts. a pound; sugar, 9 cts. and 8 cts. a pound; soap, 7 and 8 cts. a pound—same quality in cash store 5 cts.; molasses, 50 cts. and 40 cts. a gallon; butter, 22 cts., sometimes 26 cts. a pound—from countrymen or stores average 20 cts. a pound, of as good quality as company's store; potatoes 80 cts. a bushel, and for cash 40 to 45 cts. Men have to buy at company's store, having so long to wait for money. In case of sickness or disablement relief is got out of association or out of miners' pockets; has known of the manager contributing once. Doctor attending straight through child-birth, \$4; manager appoints doctor. Flour in company's store, \$6.25; manager says it is only \$6 (produces clerk's handwriting). In 1886 flour at company's store cost \$3.33 for half barrel every month; in 1887 it cost \$6.75 at one time and  
**456** \$6.50 at another for barrel. Has seen men paid as low as 40 cts. a day, going on 18 years old. Does not think he would have to pay any taxes. Knows a man of 21 working overground who gets 60 cts. a day. Would like to urge difference of prices of company's store cash store, and necessity of weekly payments. Men who pay \$3.10 to company have no say in school business, while he who pays less, because a rate-payer has a vote; a miner is a trustee. Objects to pay 15 cents a month to company because they have no claim to collect it. Miners buy all books. (*See estimate of what a miner, his wife and four children could live on.*)  
**468**  
**469**

McKAY, ALEXANDER, *Supervisor of Schools, Halifax.*

- 83** One hundred and six teachers are employed in Halifax, ranging from primary to academic work. Six are engaged in county academy, three in academic work in St. Patrick's School. Of the teachers, about twenty-three have been trained at the Normal School. School-houses are in fair condition; new ones very good. Chief defect is want of ventilation and over-crowding in the older buildings, especially in primary departments. Schools are supported by a city or sectional tax—a county capitation tax, divided among the schools on the basis of attendance and time taught; a Government grant to each teacher, dependent on the time given to teaching and the grade of his or her license. County academy free to all residents the last two years. Pupils provide books,  
**84** which are prescribed by Council of Public Instruction. Attendance at school can be made compulsory in any section, if trustees so desire, between  
**85** the ages of seven and twelve. This provincial law has not generally been taken advantage of. It has not been adopted in Halifax. Wherever adopted it  
**84** has been dropped. It has to be voted on every year. About 75 per cent. of children leave school to go to work before finishing their common school

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- education, about 56 per cent. before reaching the 6th grade, and over 75 per cent. before the 8th, or last grade. Average age of leaving is between twelve and thirteen. In art school sixty five pupils are studying mechanical and architectural drawing, thus improving themselves as mechanics or foremen. Fifty-two younger pupils are learning freehand drawing. There are probably eighty studying for mechanical purposes, in some sense or other.
- 85** Attendance of laboring men's children very irregular. A bill for the employment of a truant officer, and for compulsory education in Halifax, without a local option clause, is now before the Legislature. Six thousand
- 86** children attend city common schools and 200 the county academy. Technical training of a broad and general character, unconnected with any particular trade, should be given at public cost, and in academy boys should work four hours a week at carpentering. This would not only give a valuable mental training, but would tend to divert young men from overcrowded professions, and would inculcate more respect for manual labor, while benefiting the country by encouraging manufactures. Special technical schools for special trades might also be provided outside of the provincial schools. There are four night schools in the city, free for both sexes, but they have been poorly attended during the past winter. Others have been provided by benevolent societies. Highest salary paid to a
- 87** teacher is \$1,600; a lady teacher in the common school, \$750. Average salary
- 88** for men in the common schools is about \$450; for ladies, \$370. Probably 25 per cent. of the pupils of the Halifax academy expect to become mechanics. If there was a manual training school a much larger number would doubtless look forward to becoming foremen and master mechanics.

McKAY, JOHN, *Picker, Halifax Cotton Factory.*

- 130** Wages, \$6 a week. No girls, and only one boy about sixteen years old, work in the room. Boy earns \$2.50 a week. The place is comfortable and well ventilated and the dust is carried away by fans. Five persons work in the room; unless through the worker's own carelessness, there is nothing dangerous in picking. No fines are imposed and has no complaints as to his treatment.

McKAY, THOMAS, *Roller, N. S. Steel Works, New Glasgow.*

- 394** Three rollers are employed. Work most of day by the piece, the rest by the ton. By the ton earns \$5 to \$6 a day; \$5 a fair average. Considers so
- 395** many heats a day's work. Heaters get \$2 a day, half what rollers get by the ton. Has been working in works four or five years. Single men live at home. Does not think it would be a benefit to be paid oftener. Has a little preferential stock in company.

McKENNA, HUGH, *Employé, Tobacco Factory, Pictou.*

- 387** Heard evidence of M. McKenna and agrees with it. Has been twelve or thirteen years in the business. Gets \$1.25 a day. Single men board with parents at \$3 a week. Pays \$3.80 taxes, and keeps his mother and sister.

McKENNA, MAXWELL, *Tobacco Manufacturer, Pictou.*

- 385** Employs ten or twelve hands, men and boys; boys get \$2 a week at first, increasing about every five months. Piece-hands earn from \$7 to \$10 a week, the average being \$8, and work all the year round. Floor hands receive from \$3 to \$7 a week, paid fortnightly, in cash and in full. Knows of two men who own houses. Does not search men, and there are no fines. Youngest boy fifteen years; all live with their parents and have a fair education. Sanitary condition of factory good; good water closets. Hours in winter eight; in



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**386** summer ten. Men who own their houses have been working with firm for thirty or forty years; they have money in bank besides. Value of houses between \$1,500 and \$1,800.

McKENZIE, DANIEL, *Foreman, Steel Works, New Glasgow.*

**393** Foreman in bolt-cutting department, and has from six to eighteen or twenty hands under him. Skilled men get from \$1.25 to \$2, most of them being steady. Many would prefer being paid more frequently; others do not care. Many men own houses. He owns three, built mostly out of earnings; two tenements of three or four rooms in each; each tenement brings \$3 or \$4 a month; does not remember amount of taxes. Does not

**394** believe in labor organizations. Sanitary condition of water-closets all right. There might be some two or three boys of twelve, but that would be the youngest. They work running round picking up light stuff and work same hours as men. Land costs about \$50 a lot and upwards, outside the corporation and about 50 yards from works.

McKINLAY, ANDREW, *Publisher and Stationer, Halifax.*

**217** Employs eighteen to twenty hands in bindery. Binders earn from \$9 to \$12 a week; girls sewing, ruling and book-folding get from \$1 a week to \$4, according to ability. Some can do folding, as well as is required, in a year,

**218** others take longer. Of ten or twelve girls employed only two get \$4 a week. School-books, excepting the Readers, and the grammar and arithmetic, are published here from stereotyped plates coming from Scotland and the States. One book is printed in Ontario. The Readers are published in Edinburgh, and forming part of a very large edition, and having other markets than Canada, can be sold cheaper than any edition published in the Dominion. In those sold here, articles about Canada, written by Canadians,

**219** have been introduced. Maps are published here, but printed in England, where there are wood-cuts. Books cannot be as well printed here as in England, for want of improved machinery required for such work. Is the largest importer of school books in Nova Scotia and owns the copyright of certain books prescribed by the Province, thus having a monopoly of their sale. Is not a practical printer.

McLELLAN, ALEXANDER, *Miner, Cape Breton.*

**423** Has been employed twenty-five years, and last year earned over \$300, or something over \$200 after deducting powder and other things. Works about eight or nine months and goes at 5 or 6 a. m. and leaves when tired. Is married, with a family; has two boys working in mine, nineteen and fifteen years of age. He and one boy pay doctor's fees, 40 cents and 25 cents respectively. Rents company's house, two rooms and kitchen, at \$1.60 a

**424** month; three months in winter, \$1.35. Fines only for over-driving. Would prefer being paid fortnightly; could buy cheaper for cash. One accident a year or two ago, but does not know verdict at inquest. Sometimes buys at

**425** company's store, and if not in debt can get credit for full amount of earnings. Health inspector visits property and sees it is properly attended to. No drains to houses, and slops thrown out in back yard.

McLELLAN, ARCHIBALD, *Miner, New Glasgow.*

**368** Agrees with Munsie's evidence and approves of Drummond's. Objects to letting out contracts, as it tends to bring people from outside—they have a lot of that; the association does not want to interfere with management of mine. (*See Drummond and Munsie*).

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McLENNAN, JOHN S., *General Manager, International Mines, Little Glace Bay.*

- 479** Has been four years connected with the mine, which employs in summer about 400 men and boys for from 150 to 180 days. Of these about 180 are coal-cutters. The men are paid monthly. No store is owned by the company, but some of the minor officials are interested in a co-operative store, which has proved a financial success, but which is in no way connected with the company. It sells goods as cheaply as other stores, and the men get their share of the profits. They deal largely with it, but no pressure to deal there would be permitted. The company own a number of houses; many of the men also own their homes. No men have been discharged by the company for any cause connected with labor organizations, nor has any list of men prominent in such movements been sent to other companies, nor has he been requested to discharge such men. Has never asked a man if he belonged to a labor organization, and certainly would not object to employing such men. There are men who, being objectionable for other reasons, would not be employed by the company, but chiefly for other reasons, and not for any part they have taken in labor organizations. The assessed value of the International Mines is about \$65,000. Railway connection with Louisbourg would do little to increase the employment given in the mine during winter, there being at present no market to the south. No strikes since he went to the mine. Men are supplied with round coal at their houses for 40 cents a load, or with slack at 25 cents; a load is about half a ton. The men are almost exclusively Cape Bretoners, and are generally very well conducted. Many of them come for the summer and leave when the work slackens. It has never been necessary to import foreigners. His sole object in taking stock in the co-operative store was to benefit the men by getting them more for their money and promoting habits of economy and foresight.
- 480**
- 481**

McLEOD, DOUGLAS, *Cutting-room, Shoe Factory.*

- 319** Has worked in factory fourteen years. Gets \$9 a week for ten hours a day all  
**320** the year round. Can save a little money. Has lived economically and owns his house.

McLEOD, HUGH, *Londonderry Iron Co.*

- 236** Has been with company about ten and a-half years. Wages \$1.40 a day, payable monthly; night work, when required, same rate. For the last two or three years did not receive so much. No boys employed under seventeen years of age; cannot say what they receive. Has bought his house since being in present employment. When times are middling gets \$3 per month for one apartment, \$2 for the other; when times are not  
**237** good, \$2 or \$1 per month. Used to pay \$2.50 for taxes; now, \$2.28 for poor and county tax and \$2.50 school taxes; does not know what amount other taxes will be.

McLEOD, MURDOCK, *Miner, Londonderry Mines.*

- 288** Has been employed in mine for twenty years; was nine years old on starting and got 45 cents a day trapping; was five years before he got \$1 a day. Corroborates the evidence of Mr. Paul. Is married, and knows nothing  
**289** about the price of provisions. Rents a house and kitchen at \$2. per month, and does not think rent too much. Subscribes to doctor, and does not object; also belongs to Miners' Union. The managers endeavor to get men to join temperance societies, but he does not belong to one. Health is good and mine air good; some parts a little damp. Oldest man working in mine

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**290** seventy-four years, a laborer; oldest cutter, sixty-five years. Cannot say if any boys are employed under twelve years. Some miners, when sixty or sixty-five, retire from work. (*See Paul.*)

McNEIL, JOHN, *Coal-digger, Cape Breton.*

- 410** Is paid 33 cents a ton in winter and 41 and 43 cents in summer. In narrow places cutters are paid by the yard and ton; under 4 ft. 3 in. 5 cents is allowed on the ton. Deputies go into mine before men every morning to see if there is any gas. Men generally deal at company's store, but can deal at any other store if they like. Thinks a man buying for ready cash gets a benefit. Is paid monthly. Hours vary from nine, ten, eleven and twelve a day; leaves when he chooses. Has been twelve years in the mine. Fair day's earning for himself, \$1.77 to \$1.80 in summer; in winter, \$1.30 or \$1.40; cannot earn \$1.50 in winter. Yearly wages about \$300 or \$400, less \$80 or \$90 for powder, oil and house rent. He pays for lamps, but tools are supplied, except picks. Has two rooms in company's house, at \$1.60 a month. Boys go to work from twelve years upwards, and begin at 30 cents a day; when drivers, 5 cents extra. Belongs to Miner's Association. Pays about \$3.50 a year taxes. Picks cost \$2.50 a set—three picks and one handle. Doctor's fee, 40 cents a month. Water closets are in all houses and water good. Has five children working in mine. Nothing to complain of, and last accident occurred ten years ago. Men would prefer being paid fortnightly. Very few men own their own houses, but a few put money in the bank.

McNEIL, MICHAEL, *Carpenter, Halifax.*

- 33** Has been a journeyman for seventeen years, and about six years in present employ; \$1.70 a day being highest wages, \$1.40 the lowest for journeymen, \$1.50 being the average. Boys on entrance get \$2 a week, increasing 50 cents every six months. Payments are fortnightly, on Saturdays, though he thinks the men might spend their money to better advantage if paid on Friday or Monday. Rent, meat, milk and potatoes higher than seven years ago, and wages have not increased in proportion. Machine hands get from \$8 to \$10 a week. Machines make a good deal of dust; fans attached to sand-papery, but not to other machines. Men do not seem to be injured by the dust. No proper accommodation provided in Halifax shops. Separate house of five or six rooms costs from \$140 to \$150 a year. Some of the tenement houses are without sewers and most of the closets are unconnected with the sewer. Wages are kept down by carpenters coming in from the country, who take the place of more skilful men. It is seldom but that there are not some carpenters idle.

McNEIL, ROBERT, *Warden of Pictou County, New Glasgow.*

- 389** Manufactures grindstones. Business is decreasing; competition from Ohio the cause. Employs ten men in summer; has had as many as thirty. Does not work in winter; \$13 to \$25 a month is paid, with board and lodging, the average being \$1 to \$2 a day.

McNEILL, NEIL, *Miner, Block-house Mines, Little Glace Bay.*

- 476** Has lost wages by the failing of a mining company in 1885. The Provincial Government seized and sold the rolling stock of the company for that year's unpaid royalty, but did not pay the men. Thinks that laboring men should have the first claim in cases of suspension of payment.

McQUINN, A., *Clerk with Vooght Bros., Cape Breton.*

- 434** Considers credit system a disadvantage to men; with cash they could buy



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cheaper and there would be more competition. Fortnightly payments would be a benefit to them. Miners deal with firm; pretty correct in their dealings and sell as cheaply as any of the stores, if not cheaper; could buy cheaper on cash system. Fortnightly pay would facilitate that; men wish to have it. Drunkenness on decrease; Scott Act only a humbug.

**435**

McSWEENEY, W. B., *Secretary, Director &c., of the Chandler Electric Light Co., Halifax.*

**92** Company has a superintendent, three carbon-men, two night-patrolmen, three dynamo-men, three or four men for general work, two line-men, and about twelve men working under contract. Carbon-men, line-men and patrol-men average \$8 or \$10 a week, and the other classes from \$1.10 to \$1.40 per day. Carbon-men work by day, putting carbons in the lamps; the dynamo and patrol-men work at night, except on clear moonlight nights. Ten hours is a day's work. Electrician gets \$1,500 a year. The Company furnish light at 22 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents per night.

**93**

McTAGARTH, ROBERT, *Employé at Springhill Mines.*

**301** Is thirteen years old, and has been employed in mines two years; eight to ten hours a day—7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Has been driving about three weeks; before that, going around with fire-boxes. Got \$15 per month at first; now 60 cents a day, which he gives to his mother; has a father. Would sooner work than go to school. Has to walk up and down to work; no objection riding on the rakes when ropes are not bad. Can read and write.

**302**

MACKASEY, JOHN, *Liquor License Inspector, Halifax.*

**110** His duties are to see that the laws relating to the liquor traffic are strictly enforced. Licenses are granted by city council, and signed by mayor and inspector. There are now ninety-three licenses issued in Halifax. Number, before the passage of present law in 1886 raising the prices, being between 170 and 180. Nineteen hotels only licensed and fifty-six saloons and shops; the remaining eighteen are wholesale and brewers; for which, there being some question, there are no applicants. No liquor can be sold where groceries or other merchandise are offered for sale. One pint the least and two gallons the largest quantity allowed to be sold at one time to one person, and cannot be drunk on the premises. No liquor is allowed to be sold over the bar in hotels under a penalty of \$50. There is no bar in the building of the Provincial Legislature. A man buying a bottle and giving a friend a drink out of it in licensed premises is liable to a fine of \$20 for giving or allowing him to drink, and any one drinking on licensed premises also incurs a fine of \$20. A bottle can, of course, be bought and taken home to treat one's friends at home, or elsewhere. Does not think that the increase in the number of licenses has at all affected drinking. There is enough to serve the crowd, and they will find it out.

**111**

MACKINTOSH, J. C., *Banker and Broker, Halifax.*

**220** Has been in business since 1873. In Nova Scotia, city, county and provincial bonds are not assessable. Is opposed to the banking system being controlled by the Government, and thinks that an honest administration by individuals is better than any Government administration.

**221**

MARTIN, P. F., *Painter, Halifax.*

**120** President of Painters' Union; no benefits, but helps painters by keeping up wages. Difficulties have been caused by men knowing nothing of painting

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- 121 coming from all parts of the Dominion and supplanting skilled mechanics by working for less wages. Skilled men have been discharged, and these people employed at lower rates. A compulsory indentured system should be established, and arbitration between employers and men introduced; a bureau of labor statistics should also be established. These three improvements would be generally approved by the men. The bureau of labor statistics would show the amount earned by both parties, and whether the mechanic or the employer did or did not receive a just proportion. Arbitrators would settle labor disputes, and compulsory apprenticeship would dispose of the question as to boys, which is at present one of the greatest troubles in the trade. Halifax painters average about nine months' in the year, and for three months, as a rule, do nothing, not liking to infringe on the work of other classes. At the present rate of wages, and working only nine months of the year, a painter with a family cannot live comfortably. Other witnesses have placed the average rent of workmen's houses too high. Very few in Halifax pay \$8 per month; \$6 for three or four rooms is about the average. City Council ought to tax outside labor and give residents who pay taxes a chance to live. No mechanics have lost wages, so far as he knows, through employer's insolvency. Men are paid weekly, on Saturday, though Friday would be better for marketing to advantage. Has worked in Dublin, Liverpool and Manchester, wages in those places being about 7s. less than in Halifax, and all eatables dearer. Cost of living here is no greater than it was ten years ago. Painters are very sober; no better men in the world. Some have houses of their own. Painters in the old country work no longer in the year than they do in Halifax.
- 122

MOIR, JAMES W., of *Moir, Son & Co., Bakers and Confectioners, Halifax.*

- 12 Firm employs 117 hands, eight being bakers, earning from \$6 to \$12 a week, working on an average about eleven and a-half hours daily; a boy of fourteen gets from \$1 to \$1.50 and a girl from \$1.25 to \$4. The place is well ventilated and healthy. Eleven closets in the building, which are used by both sexes in the different work rooms. No fines or other punishments, except a scolding or a discharge. Have had no labor troubles. But few accidents have happened to the employés; one boy had his hand hurt in passing dough between the rollers, and having his attention called elsewhere; another was slightly hurt by the fall of an elevator.
- 13
- 14

MOIR, WILLIAM, of *W. & A. Moir, Machinists, Halifax.*

- 51 Has been in business twenty-seven years, and employs on the average fifteen men, nearly all skilled hands. Some have been in the firm's employ nearly twenty years. Wages average \$1.75 a day of ten hours, paid weekly, on Saturdays. Boys commence at \$1.50 a week with a yearly rise of \$1. Much more repairing work now than formerly, but not so much new work, reason being that in Ontario machinists have a wider field for making specialties, and can therefore work cheaper. Nevertheless, the firm has nearly as much as it can do, having repairing work for mills, mines and steamers. Employés compare favorably in point of sobriety and intelligence with men of the same class in the United States.

MOLLINSON, ANDREW, *Shoe Factory, Amherst.*

- 331 Nails, tacks and finishes heels. Wages, \$4.50. Has been engaged in factory four years. Pays \$2 a week board; is seventeen years old and no relations to look after him.

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MORRISON, ALEXANDER, *Bank-man, Cape Breton.*

- 435** Takes coal out of the cage and is employed all day at 80 cents, and 1 cent for every 100 tubs taken out of pit—1,100 or 1,200 tubs a day's work. Has been employed in business fifteen or sixteen years. Employed the year round; in winter loses some time, but generally gets other work. Is single, and lives with parents. In summer he gets 85 cents a day and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cents for every 100 tubs—average, a little over \$1 a day; five other hands work where he does, from 6 a.m. till pit stops. If pit stops for any cause gets three-quarter time. No fines, but if men leave before time are checked quarter of a day and are satisfied with arrangement. Fortnight's notice given and required for leaving and dismissal. Does not think company would dock or dismiss without notice. Two men have to fill eighty-six tubs—eighteen bushels in a tub.
- 436**

MORRISON, EDWARD, E. M., *Foreman of Halifax Water Department.*

- 195** Water rates in Halifax are levied wholly on valuation with certain special and additional charges for closets, baths, houses, &c. All dwellings assessed at \$1,000 or under pay a minimum rate of \$4; for houses let to one tenant, the tenant pays the water rate; for houses let to more than one the landlord pays. Has worked for the department for twenty-one years, beginning at \$1 a day, receiving a yearly salary of \$880; number employed by department ranges from twenty to thirty men, according to the work to be done. There are about twelve permanent men, at wages ranging from \$2 to \$13 weekly. Men living or working near the dams are paid \$2 a week to visit them daily.
- 196**
- 197**

MORRISON, J. W., *Journalist, Londonderry Iron Works.*

- 266** When working on the bar-mill received \$2.60 per ton and paid help out of it. Average day's work five tons; at present, ten or eleven men constitute a gang of men at one set of rollers. Wages paid roller, \$4 to \$5 per day; heater, \$3.50 to \$4; roughers about \$1.50 each; catcher, \$1.10 to \$1.20 per day, but in certain months more than that; helper on furnace, \$1.30 to \$1.35. Average hours a day should be ten, but has been from ten, twelve, fourteen and sixteen hours a day on account of machinery being out of repairs. Doctor's fee is 45 cents for men and 20 cents for boys per month. Men do not take notice of what they pay, but he knows it is 40 cents. Does not know if there is any blackmailing in this employment. Left employ of company on account of things being in bad shape and grumbling about no work being done and on account of not being able to get suitable roller to do work required. Is one of the parties who lost six weeks' pay.
- 267**
- 268**

MORROW, M. R., *Coal dealer, Halifax.*

- 212** Represents S. Cunard & Co. Anthracite, or hard coal, is now (April, 1888) selling at from \$6.50 to \$6.75; bituminous, or soft coal, at \$5 to \$5.50. These prices are per chaldron of 3,000 lbs. The working classes chiefly use bituminous coal, getting from a ton and a-half to two tons. The hard coal is shipped here chiefly from Hoboken, N.Y., average freight being \$1.50 a ton. Soft coal is from Victoria and Sydney, C.B., and was sold last summer at \$4.80 and \$5.25 per chaldron. The coal mines of the Province are closed for four months yearly—from December to April. There is no monopoly. The average freight on coal from Sydney to Halifax from 1st June to 31st December is \$1.30 a ton, including handling in and out. The taking off of the duty last year did not cheapen coal in Halifax, but made the price that much higher to importer from the States. There is no combination between the dealers at the shipping ports and those at Halifax as to prices.
- 214**
- 215**



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MOTTON, ROBERT, *Stipendiary Magistrate, Halifax.*

- 186 The lien law of Nova Scotia is essentially the same as that of Ontario. (See Revised Statutes of N.S., series 5, chap. 85.) A workman on a building has no claim on the owner, except on the moneys' if any, due by him to the contractor or sub-contractor. The city civil court is largely used for collecting small debts. Is an appointee of the Local Government, and has jurisdiction up to \$80 in civil causes. Under the Garnishee Act (Revised Statutes of N.S., Cap. 105, p. 912) the whole of a man's wages may be seized if the creditor has obtained judgment for an amount large enough to come within the jurisdiction of the County Court or the Supreme Court. Landlords can seize everything on the premises, unless it is there in the way of trade. Municipalities have power to enforce the attendance of children at school. Sub-tenants' goods, but not boarders, can be seized for rent due by the principal tenant.

MUIR, ARCHIBALD, *Assistant Manager, Londonderry Iron Co.*

- 239 Has been employed about nine years, and has fair knowledge of occupations and earnings of men employed. Puddlers work probably ten, eleven and twelve hours a day. Paid by the ton; wages average \$2.50 per day. When company went into liquidation men were paid every four weeks. Every third pay was five weeks pay—twelve pays in the year—five weeks every third month. Money held by the company before liquidation is still owing to the men. They are now paid monthly in full, less amount for house rent, or coal supplied, and doctor's fees. Recently got a few foreign puddlers, as they could not get men in the country to do the work. Houses belonging to the company rent as low as \$1.20 to \$1.50 per month, and contain about three rooms and kitchen or cooking place. Best class of houses fetch \$4 to \$4.50 per month. Two shifts are employed in the blast furnace, and take night turn every alternate week—hours, 3 a.m. to 7 p.m., one shift; the other ten hours. Arrangement amongst the men is it should be only twelve hours each shift. Furnace men work on Sunday same as week days, with no extra pay. Doctor is hired and paid by the men. Not in the habit of paying men who get hurt. The men are supplied with coal at \$2.75, the public at \$3. Five hundred are employed. (See memorandum of wages paid to workmen.)

MUIR, WM., *Sail-maker and Ship-chandler, Halifax.*

- 184 Employs about four hands the year round, and more in the busy season, if they can be got. Trade is not, as prosperous since the substitution of steam for sail, and the men have left the city. The wages are \$1.75 per day of ten hours the year round, with higher pay for night work. Has two or three boys who get \$1.25 a week the first year. He pays his hands in cash every Saturday. No women work at sail-making in Halifax. Most foreign ships touching here are Norwegians, and do their own sail-making, the heavy duties having raised the prices here of everything connected with the ship. American duck is a shade dearer in some cases than Yarmouth duck. The canvas made here is not so good as that formerly supplied from the States, but the Americans are now sending an inferior quality.

MUMFORD, FRANCIS, *Iron Works, Halifax.*

- 153 Was burnt out in May, 1887, but until then did a fair business in manufacturing ship-wheels, car-axes, &c., there being only two factories of the kind in Nova Scotia. When ship-building was good he employed about thirty hands. Hammer-men, who were scarce, got \$4 a day; good heaters

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up to \$3, and other machinists \$9 or \$10 a week. Since shipping has gone down the market is insufficient, and has been overstocked by competition.

MUNROE, A. J., *Boss of the Team, Shoe Factory, Amherst.*

- 329** "Boss of the team" means taking a job from a firm and engaging and paying his own help. The help consists of men and boys from sixteen years upwards. After paying his help he makes about \$10 a week, perhaps a little more. Five persons is the average employed. Pays boys \$4.50, \$5 and \$6; men about \$8 on piece-work. Extra hours are paid for, and no girls are employed. The factory compares favorably with others he has worked in. No trouble with the employers or the men. The manager fixes the pay.

MUNSIE, W. S., *Miner, New Glasgow.*

- 363** Has been working eight or nine years. Last year earned \$351.89 at box and pillar work. Married, with family. Taxes from \$7.90 to \$9.80. Partly built own house out of money earned before going to mines. Has saved no money since. Could not keep a family of seven on present wages. Pays 42 cents a month to doctor and voluntary fee to minister. Is paid monthly, but would be beneficial to be paid oftener, as the men could live from \$5 to \$8 a month less for cash. There is a Provincial Workmen's Association, but it pays no benefits. Distress is met by subscriptions by men. In favor of arbitration as a settlement of strikes. Goes down mine by a slope, and tools are sent down and made very handy for Acadia miners. Nothing could be added for safety of the mine in which he works, and he considers that miners are ground down a little too fine at present. Coal sells higher now than six or seven years ago, and wages are lower.

MURRAY, ALEXANDER W., *of Christie Bros., Amherst.*

- 334** Has charge of wood-working department, and been employed seven or eight years, and gets \$2.50 a day. About twenty hands employed, who are paid every Saturday at six o'clock, the amount owing at store being deducted. Is an advantage to deal at store; prices the same, sometimes cheaper, than in other stores. Wood-workers earn about \$1.50 a day; sometimes more, sometimes less. No trouble with employers, and objects to labor organizations.
- 335** It is voluntary buying at company's store, and makes no difference as to employment. Is married, and owns house, which cost \$2,000, with land, and paid for it in less than ten years out of earnings. Has three children and wife to support.

MURRAY, A. L., *Employé N. S. Steel Works, New Glasgow.*

- 397** Drives steam crane; two men at that work; wages, 15 cents an hour.
- 398** Takes turns at night work at same pay. Lives with his father-in-law and has three or four rooms, but prefers not to state what rent he pays. No system of fines, and ten hours a day's work. No strikes, and he is perfectly satisfied with employers.

MURPHY, FREDERICK, *Tailor's Pressman, Halifax.*

- 42** Opinion coincides entirely with that of Mr. Tanner, which he heard. He averages about \$10 a week working by the piece, and has constant employment all the year round. (*See Tanner.*)

NAYLOR, HENRY, *Cracker-baker, Halifax.*

- 174** Has worked for thirteen years at his trade, and works ten hours a day, for which he gets \$7 a week. A few boys of all sizes work in the shop at packing and brushing off the machines. Half a dozen boys have been injured, to

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his knowledge, by getting their fingers in the rollers, but whether from carelessness or inexperience he can hardly tell.

NAYLOR, JOHN, *Real Estate Agent, Halifax.*

- 197** Has been thirteen years in business. Houses of from four to six rooms and about a mile from the post office rent for from \$6 to over \$13 a month, according to locality gas, water and other conveniences. Mechanics, from \$6.50 to \$8, the latter amount being the usual rent. As a class, excepting a few drunkards, mechanics and laborers are best men to pay that he knows of. In Halifax the mechanics are considered by him to be quite as well off and to live as well as those of Toronto or St. John, N.B. Last year, 1887, \$3 and \$3.50 a day were offered in vain by builders for masons and plasterers.
- 199** Money for building on an unencumbered lot in a good locality can be borrowed in Halifax at  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., the ordinary mortgage being 6 per cent. Rents are higher in Halifax than Toronto. Laborers usually pay a weekly rental of \$1 to \$1.25; for the latter rent two rooms can be got in the centre of the city, or four rooms at about a mile and a-quarter from the post office.

NICKERSON, NEIL A., *Miner, Stellarton.*

- 343** Works in Drummond Mine, and corroborates M. Johnstone. Where he works now he earns \$1.25 a day for hard work, and in another place near has made \$2, but averages \$1.25 for the whole month. Thinks Arbitration
- 344** Bill passed in Local House this year good. Would like better lamps. Was one of the deputation to manager for the Clenny lamp, and was told that it was not safe. Thinks labor organization has been a benefit in every way. Is opposed to immigration, only paupers being brought into the country. Thinks indentures would be a benefit. Fortnightly pay would be a saving of 10 per cent. to buyer and seller. Statistics of labor would be an advantage, showing what they are doing in the old country, and they would not be deceived. (*See Johnston*.)

NICKERSON, NEAL H., *Miner, Stellarton.*

- 349** Thinks \$1 for every working day average earnings of fair coal-cutters; average man could get \$1.50, but does not think he has averaged \$300 the last three years. Company has no store. Rent of company's houses varies from \$1.20 to \$2.50; three rooms and a porch for \$1.20. House he lives in (\$2.50) has five rooms and an up-stairs; not fit to live in, and not very warm. Company supply coals at \$1.20 a ton, besides hauling. Has had one strike, or rather a lock-out, lasting from January to 15th May, reduction being the cause. Company accepted offer of compromise. Is paid once a month, on the 15th; two weeks held back. Not many accidents, except in 1880, when forty-four were killed, and six killed before then. There are fines for stony coals, damage to lamps and oil cans. If the gauge is damaged it is \$3, cost only 80 cents; also fined \$5 more than price of lamp.
- 351** Company gets fines. Men leave mostly on account of bad light, which is the cause of fines; men loading cannot see quality of coal. Has made complaint about light, but got no satisfactory answer. Sanitary matters are never looked after, and houses are neglected to a great extent.

NIGHTINGALE, WM., *Weaver, Halifax.*

- 132** Runs four looms, and can make, on an average, \$16.50 a fortnight. Women earn as much, and sometimes more than the men. There are fines for spoiling work and for neglect. Has nothing to add to the evidence of Patrick Jones. (*See Jones.*)



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NORTHROP, ALEXANDER, *Carpenter, Halifax.*

- 42 Has been carpenter and joiner for thirty years, and belongs to association. Average wages, from \$1.45 to \$1.50 a day, though some get \$1.75. On the
- 43 other hand, there are men who come in in the spring and get \$1 or \$1.25. Considers workmen worse off now than they were ten years ago. Is paid fortnightly, on Friday, which he considers an advantage to workmen's wives, as they can go Saturday morning with the money in their
- 44 hands and have the pick of the market. In favor of indenture system, if boys are treated humanely, as he believes it would make better tradesmen. Members of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America; pays 30 cents per month to the society, 10 cents of which is for benefits of \$50 at a wife's death, \$200 to a widow, and \$300 in case of accident resulting from the trade such as a fall from the scaffold, etc. If properly carried out, the constitution of these organizations is in the interest of the employers. Members will not work with non-union men, but there has been no general strike for some years among the Halifax carpenters. Wages have risen
- 45 25 to 30 cents a day. Some of the shops in Halifax are very poorly provided, both as to sanitary condition and comfort. Carpenters invariably go in for arbitration before striking. They would think it a benefit to have a bureau of statistics established. In Nova Scotia there is no protection for a mechanic's wages in case of an employer's insolvency. Very few men own their own houses, wages being so low. Were the hours shortened the pay would be increased. In winter, when a first-class man and an inferior man have been working at the same bench, the former is frequently discharged. Fuel, both wood and coal, in Halifax, has risen in price during the past five years, and people do not enjoy as many luxuries as formerly. Were the hours shorter, the mechanics would patronize a free library.
- 46

O'BRIEN, MICHAEL, *Ship-carpenter, Halifax.*

- 107 During seven years he kept account of his time; had earned about \$800 a year. Is secretary of what are now two distinct associations—the Shipwrights' and Caulkers' Societies—though the same person may belong to one or both of them. The wages of both trades are the same—\$2.50 per day of nine hours, from 1st May to 1st November, and during the rest of the year
- 108 from 8 in the morning to sunset. There are about fifty members of the Caulkers' Association. The Shipwrights' Society has about forty members. After a member of either society reaches sixty he is exempt from dues, and can work at whatever rate he sees fit or can obtain. If he prefers to remain in the society and pays his dues, he must not work for less than a fixed price. An employer may discharge a man he considers an inferior workman at any time, or for any just cause, such as drunkenness, etc. If the society finds a man to be no mechanic his entrance fee of \$12 is returned to him. He is told to go. About 50 per cent. of ship-mechanics, who look after their earnings and do not drink, own their houses, and some own two. One man has between \$4,000 and \$5,000 in the bank and another is worth between \$10,000 and \$20,000, all saved from earnings. From his position as secretary for twenty-four years of the trade association, he thinks his fellow-workmen, if sober, are generally comfortable. There is comfort all round him. The two men specially referred to by him were never in any business: one of them was foreman under the city engineer, getting \$1.75 or \$2 a day. He, himself, has often earned \$20 or \$30 a week, and often \$150 a month, by getting double pay for over-time; and still there are men who earn as much and who are poor as rats. Everything but fish is cheaper now than ten or fifteen years ago by 24 or 25 per cent. A teamster living near him left
- 109

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- 110** \$10,000 and a \$300 piano. Sugar, tea, cotton, pork and even rent are cheaper. Flats rent for \$6 a month, having from three to five rooms, including taxes; owns six houses, and used to draw more rent formerly than now, out of which he now has to pay the taxes that the tenants used to pay. Several workmen have pianos.

O'HEARN, JOHN, *Baker, Halifax.*

- 175** Is both a biscuit and soft-bread baker. At biscuit-baking his hours are from 7 in the morning until 6 p.m., and his wages \$6 a week. At bread-baking he earns \$7 a week, and works from 3 a.m. until 3, 4, 5 or 6 p.m. Three or four hands in the biscuit factory work at piece-work, and are between fourteen and fifteen years old.

OLAND, GEO. W. C., *Brewer, of S. Oland, Sons & Co., Dartmouth, N. S.*

- 157** Has been brewing since 1866. Business was increasing till the passage of the last License Act. The beer is sold throughout Nova Scotia and in St. John, N.B., Newfoundland, the West Indies, and as far as the borders of Ontario. Firm employs from fifteen to twenty men, at permanent yearly wages of from \$7 to \$8 a week for skilled men and \$6 weekly for laborers. The men are strictly honest and industrious, and there has been no labor difficulty to speak of. Firm imports about 500 bushels of malt weekly from Ontario. Two maltsters are employed at \$8 a week each.

O'MULLIN, JOHN C., *Brewer, Halifax.*

- 188** Employs on an average fifteen men. The laborers and cellar men get \$6 a week and work nine or ten hours a day. The three teamsters get \$7 and the two or three boys from \$1 to \$1.50 each; all are steadily employed throughout the year. Malt is purchased in Ontario; beers, both light and strong, are manufactured, but no lager, either here or anywhere in Nova Scotia. Sunday work, which is very seldom required, and night work, for which there are regular hands, are paid for at the same rate as day work.

PATTERSON, JOHN, *Boiler-maker, Halifax.*

- 142** Has been in business fourteen years, and employs about twenty men, averaging  
**143** \$10 a week each. Lads earn from \$2 to \$3. The men, as a rule, are sober and intelligent. Has no indentured apprentices, but if he gets a good lad he tries to make a man of him. Thinks the tariff on raw material and manufactured boilers is not properly regulated. Most of his iron comes from Scotland. No boiler-plate is made in this country, except mail plate. Trade is not increasing and he depends chiefly on repairs. He makes a few boilers, which have turned out well, and if everything were equal all the boilers required here could be made in Halifax. There is no inspector of boilers in the city, though much required, both on land and sea. Several accidents have occurred owing to the lack of any restriction. The men work a good deal at night, getting at the rate of a day and a-half's pay.

PAUL, ELISHA, *Coal-cutter, Londonderry.*

- 270** Has been in employ of company about eleven years. Started coal-cutting when about nineteen years old. Commenced as a trapper (gate-keeper), at 45 cents per day. When raised to driving got 85 cents a day. Drivers now get from 60 to 80 cents a day, according to size; breakers, 80 cents a day; cage-runner, \$1 per day. A boy is not able to run a cage under sixteen, unless very large for his age. Same amount of hours' work in all these grades. Loaders get from \$1.25 to \$1.30 a day; a good many can get from \$1.50 to \$1.40. Miners are supposed to work eight hours a day; some

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- work more, some work less. Has been a miner eleven years, coal-cutting. Generally makes about \$2 a day—probably a little more; would not amount to \$2.25. Considers there should be a conveyance to get to and from work; there would be no difficulty in having one. Roads are 6 feet, and some 10 feet in width. In case of explosions, more could get out of the mine quicker by a conveyance. Price per box is not as much as five years ago; but would as soon be paid by the box as by weight. Would be more, beneficial to health to work eight hours in a mine than ten. Has not heard that men have made representations to that effect, and does not think it would be any use. Lives in his own house, and is married. Pays about \$12 taxes, and thinks he is assessed at \$500. No reading rooms, circulating libraries, etc. Considerable number of men own their own houses, paid for out of their wages. Has no idea as to price of provisions—his wife managing the house. Owns three acres of land, which cost \$100; worth now \$400. Houses owned by company cheaper, as a rule, than those owned by outsiders. Company has no objection to employing Union men. In case of strikes and troubles the matter is referred to arbitration; the men prefer it. No limit to amount of coal a man can get out in winter. Drinking water not good. There is no dangerous place in the mine, and open lamps are used. No fines, except for short measure or dirt in box; does not think it fair to fine for this; box not full is a fine. Men have applied for fair reduction for short measure, but nothing has been done. Boys earning \$1 per day pay doctor's fee, same as single men; under \$1, nothing. Only grievance men have is that of carrying tools down to work.

PECK, JOHN, *Coal-cutter, Cape Breton.*

- 420 Nineteen years at it. Wages better here than in Victoria Mines. Married,  
421 with family, and owns house; earned most of the money the other side; taxes \$4.24. Has raised objections to officials about amount of coal taken off for dirt. Belongs to Miners' Association; benefits attached to it. Two months ago had about a day's pay taken off for deductions. Earns from \$25 to \$26 a month; usual pay from \$12 to \$15, or \$16 to \$20. In good places in summer can make \$40; in others, \$30 to \$35. Would sooner be paid fortnightly, and would then be able to buy for cash. Does not deal at company's store; gets better value at others. Not many men get drunk on pay day compared with number employed; fortnightly payments would make some men sober.

PELTON, E. C., *Employé, Rhodes, Curry & Co., Amherst.*

- 333 Has charge of all departments in shop. Wages range from \$9 to \$18 a week, good hands receiving from \$9 to \$12. Has been employed ten years, during which time business has very much increased. Is paid twice a month, in full. No business troubles with employers to any extent. Three boys are employed learning the trade; not indentured. Would be of advantage if they were taught some technical education. Thinks it would be an improvement.

PHELAN, J. F., *Steamship Agent, Halifax.*

- 229 Has been commission merchant and steamship agent for sixteen or seventeen years—together in the fish business. Cannot say difference in prices now and ten years ago. Dry fish last year was higher than for some years, and just as much brought as during any of the ten years previous.

PIPES, IVAN, *Hooker in Shoe Factory, Amherst.*

- 326 Puts hooks in the boots and has been one month in factory. Will be fourteen years old in October next. Gets \$3 per week on piece-work, and boards with parents.



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PIPES, JOHN, *Employé' Shoe Factory, Amherst.*

- 328** Employed in factory about thirteen years finishing buttons, and gets \$7.50 a week. Left once on account of wages being cut, but returned on account of  
**329** ill-health. Is married, and can keep family comfortably on wages. Saves a little and partly owns house.

POOLE, H. S., *Agent, Acadia Coal Co., New Glasgow.*

- 354** Company works four mines—Acadia, MacGregor, McBean and Six Foot. Over 900 men and boys employed, divided into day and contract men.  
**355** Working at timbering, average wages, \$1.30 a day; carrying coal, 60 to 80 cents; ages from sixteen to nineteen; some drivers get \$1. Coal-cutters, work by contract, at so much a yard or ton. Shovellers get \$1.30 a day, a  
**356** few get \$1.20; average hours would be less than ten. Coal-cutters made \$704 in twelve months; average of men at shifts, something over \$400.  
**357** Company own a number of houses, which rent from \$1.50 to \$2.50, and cost about \$650. Some of them are sixty years old; last year spent more on them than for many years. No stores are kept by the company. A few cases of wages have been garnisheed, and thinks it unfair. Is willing to  
**358** advance money to steady men. Thinks cost of garnishee wages is \$10. There are often little disputes with the men. Last May was the last; cause, reduction of wages in one pit. Men in other pits refused to work if order was enforced, and quit work. They made proposition, which was withdrawn after. The company refused arbitration, and a compromise was the result. No men were refused work afterwards in consequence. Has con-  
**359** siderable amount of respect for men who are leaders in these matters. Some men have built houses for themselves. Has heard that some men have put money in savings banks or made other investments. Meat is cheaper in Stellarton than in Halifax. Charge \$1.60 for coal delivered to employes; outsiders, \$2.50 at the shaft. Our men get it about half price. Fines per box for stone, 17 to 20 cents, which go to the company. Price for cutting coal is 38½ cents per cubic yard to 70 cents—a ton to the cubic yard,  
**360** roughly speaking. Thinks men are generally satisfied and the bulk sober. Thinks miners pay \$1 a head to public schools. Has not found it advisable to pay men oftener than once a month. Uses Stephenson, Clanny and Museler lamps, but prefer the Museler. Men complain of want of light often when lamps want cleaning. Has ordered a sample of electric lamps from England on approval. No general fund for men in case of sickness or  
**361** accident. Approves of arbitration, broadly speaking. Men are now earning both more and less than in former years. Believes whiskey can be had by the flask, but men, as a rule, are steady and sober. Out of 900 hands, about 100 boys are employed, under eighteen years of age. Never take then under twelve. No rule to pay in case of accidents. Monthly pay-roll from \$24,000 to \$25,000 now. Thinks company own about 350 tenements, and does not wish to sell any. Men discharged receive their pay immediately. A fortnight's notice is required when men leave voluntarily, but not enforced. Houses built by men would be worth \$400 and \$500. Company had no part in bringing out the Belgians. (*See memorandum of fines and wages during March.*)  
**362**

PORTER, JOHN F., *Machinist and Engineer, Amherst.*

- 308** Has been engaged in mining five years, and is not certificated. Has been three years putting up outside work and two years in shop. Gets \$10.50 per week for ten hours a day, paid every Saturday; one and a-half for overtime. Married, and owns house.

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POWER, THOMAS J., of *Power & Co., Plumbers, &c., Halifax.*

- 10** Engaged in tin, copper and sheet-iron work, plumbing, roofing and steam-fitting. Ten or a dozen men are employed, earning from \$6 to \$10 per week, working nine hours in winter and ten in summer; for after hours, time and a-half wages are allowed, and after 12 p.m. double.

PURCELL, JAMES, *Halifax.*

- 178** Is in his fifteenth year, and got his hand hurt in the cog-wheels of the cutter when working at the biscuit business. He worked at it eighteen months, earning \$1.50 a week; was laid up a little over a month, but got no pay after the first week. There are three or four boys in the shop of his size.

PURCELL, WM., *Biscuit-packer, Halifax.*

- 178** Earns \$6.50 a week. Boys usually get \$1.25, and are under his charge. They can learn to pack properly in two or three weeks. The youngest is fourteen, but the age is not generally asked. Ten hours is a day's work, with an hour allowed for dinner. They may occasionally have to work half an hour over-time, but leave so much the sooner the next day. No girls are employed and no fines for being late. Boys have to lift cracker boxes, weighing, when full, 20 or 25 pounds. Their wages increase very slowly. Has worked seven years at the trade. The packing boys are very seldom taught the biscuit-making trade.
- 179**

RAFTER, ALONZO, *Cotton-spinner, Halifax.*

- 126** Is nineteen, and works in same room as John Killeen, with whose testimony about the girls' wages he does not agree. Old spinners—girls—average from \$6.80 a fortnight and small girls \$3. Is a jobber, and on full time gets \$8 a fortnight. No water for drinking nearer than the bottom flat, and the spinners are on the third story. There are fire-escapes outside, and a large stairway. Has heard of a few accidents in the spinning-room, a boy about fourteen having lost his finger. No wages or doctor's bills are paid by company when laid up. Closets for boys and girls are built close together in a line, but have a brick partition. Small boys and girls have to stand all day; if they are caught sitting down they are censured. (*See Killeen.*)

REA, HENRY, *Coal-cutter, Springhill.*

- 304** Thinks \$1.60 rather than \$2 per day would be nearer the average than stated. Average wages for the last seven or eight years would be \$400 or \$450 a year. Lives in own house, but it would have taken a long time to buy if he had no help. Has his boys working in the mines; aged between twelve and thirteen. They would sooner work than go to school. Should say provisions dearer here than in Halifax: granulated sugar, 9 cents a pound; roast beef and steak, 9 to 14 cents per pound. Uses flour for bread, at \$5.50 a barrel; potatoes, 50 cents per bushel; butter, 20 cents to 21 cents per pound, by the tub; eggs, 15 cents a dozen. Pays voluntarily \$1.10 to minister's subscription; it is not compulsory. Has heard evidence that miners get coal at 74 cents a load. Does not live far from pit, but pays 88 cents a load for only half a ton, not three-quarters. He pays higher because he is beyond the west slope. Does not think it fair to make the difference. Men have complained, but got no remedy.
- 305**

READ, J. W., *Miner, Albion Mines, Stellarton.*

- 351** Corroborates N. H. Nickerson. Lock-out last winter was settled by compromise; offers of arbitration accepted at first but manager afterwards backed

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- 352** out. Cannot see properly with lamps, and it is impossible to load clear coal with the light. Cannot give an opinion as to electric lighting. Thinks there is a better lamp. Would sooner be paid fortnightly or weekly. A coal-cutter may make \$1.30 a day. He earned last month \$24 and some odd cents; average earnings one month with another, \$1.30 to \$1.60. Does not think he earns fair wages if only \$1.50 a day. Thinks a faithful day's work worth \$2. Pays doctor's fee, 42 cents a month; boys pay 30 cents. Has known
- 353** boys fifteen and sixteen pay 30 cents. Doctor gives advice and some medicine, not all, and charges \$3 for child-birth. Men choose doctor now. Does not own house, but some few men do. Pays what he thinks proper to minister. Is paid monthly, and pays taxes: school, \$1, road-work, \$1; poll-tax, 30 cents, some years 50 cents. One year he paid \$3 altogether. No objection to pay taxes. Pays \$2.50 a month rent to company; house big enough, but very cold, and not well finished. Company repairs when asked; no outhouses, except men put them up themselves, and no board of health. Always goes
- 354** up and down the shaft. Would like lien law taken into consideration by commission. Boys should not be allowed to go to work until they can read print. Thinks weekly and fortnightly pay would encourage the men and lead to cash payments. A man is more likely to be extravagant on credit system. Is opposed to importation of workingmen, but not to immigration. (See N. H. Nickerson.)

REID, ALEXANDER, *Employé, N.S. Steel Works, New Glasgow.*

- 397** Works in the mill. Seven or eight men are employed by piece and hour. Fair day's average by the ton, \$3 or \$4; on time earns \$2. Single man, and pays \$3 a week board. Can earn more at works than on a farm. Sanitary condition of shop all right. No very small boys in his department. Does not pay taxes, and does not mind how he is paid.

REID, DR., *Superintendent of Mount Hope Insane Asylum, Dartmouth.*

- 151** The average number of inmates of the asylum is 400, half of whom are of the quieter class, and three-fourths of them have no prospect of recovery. The asylum cannot accommodate more than a quarter of the insane of the Province. Taking the whole of America and England, the average of insanity is very nearly the same; between the Provinces of Canada there is very little difference. Insanity is hereditary, and though one member of a family possessing this hereditary taint may pass through life without
- 152** developing it, yet another member, who, meeting with misfortune or disappointment, which would not affect persons free from the taint, may become insane. Drink is not the most frequent cause of insanity. It is one of many causes. Drink may affect a man having the hereditary taint, or child-bearing may affect a woman thus predisposed, and result in their becoming insane. Every drunken man is insane for the time being, but still this is not what people mean by insanity. The number of those who are insane from alcohol is very few. The only practical way of preventing the increase of insanity is to prevent the insane from increasing the population. The marriage of kindred having the hereditary taint of insanity intensifies the tendency in their offspring. In the lower animals this is a law that stock-breeders are well aware of. The wages of male attendants are \$15 monthly, with board and washing, and an increase of \$1 a month yearly, until they reach \$21. Female attendants get \$7, with the same increase until they reach \$10, though few stay longer than two or three years, when they leave for the States. Mount Hope has very few patients who pay for treatment from their own or their friends' means.
- 153** Each county pays for its own insane. Two medical men must sign the



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certificate of insanity, and two magistrates, after proper inquiry, must issue the warrant, which must then be submitted to the Commissioner of Works and Mines, who gives the order for admission. There are nineteen wards in the asylum. Patients are classified rather with regard to the management required than according to their special type of mental disease. Quiet patients, for instance, are placed together. The unclean are kept in a ward by themselves. Between forty and fifty out of every 100 admitted are discharged cured—that is, as well as ever they were. Of 2,300 admissions, no attempt has yet been discovered to get a person put in who was not insane.

REES, WILLIAM, *Overman at Springhill Mines.*

- 275 Gets \$2 per day—paid fortnightly; usual time, eight hours a day's work.  
 276 Could be paid monthly if desired. Company owns sixty or seventy houses,  
 277 averaging three or four rooms and kitchen, the rent being from \$1.50, \$2 and \$2.50 a month. Company charges their men 75 cents a head per load of one-half or three-quarters of a ton. Paysschool tax, \$1; road tax, \$1; about 40 cents a year for poor and county rates; doctor's fee 45 cents for men of families, single men 35 cents a month; boys do not pay doctor's fee until of age. Men select the doctor, who supplies medicine, and are perfectly satisfied with arrangement. Duties are to enter mine and see that everything is right and in order and see that orders are carried out. Safety lamps are used, and no others, and the mines are well ventilated. No private conveniences for men in mine; use old workings. Company furnishes tools—eight picks a day, two shovels, maul wedge and necessary boring tools. Men generally take tools down with them, sending them up in boxes. Boys are employed in mine, but none under twelve years, a provincial law prohibiting younger being employed. Lowest pay of boys is 45 cents a day; after about one year would get 60 cents, 70 cents or 80 cents, according to worth. Very few accidents in mines, and wages are not paid when men are laid up through accidents. There is a benefit society, the company contributing one-third or 50 per cent. of fund and membership being optional. Thirty cents is the universal fee, and a member gets \$2.50 a week for twenty-six weeks, payable fortnightly; men who pay 50 cents get \$4 if sick or get hurt. Death benefit \$60, and so much allowed to widow and children for one year. Inspector visits mines every month. Boys work eight or nine hours, some ten.  
 282 Some 1,400 or 1,500 are employed; of these, about 100 or 150 are boys. Fines for disobeying orders or mining laws, and offender would be taken before a stipendiary magistrate, the company making the charge. No fines are exacted for benefit of company. The difference in price in taking out different kinds of coal is 25 cents to 50 cents a box less for soft than hard. Box contains about 1,650 pounds. Two men and helpers would, in some places, dig twenty to twenty-two boxes a day. If boxes are not filled the amount is docked. A man may be docked once a week; perhaps not at all.

REYNOLDS, DAVID, *Employé, Forge Works, New Glasgow.*

- 395 Is a machinist, and works all the year round, at \$2.25 a day. A good machinist gets from \$1.75 to \$2.25. Wages here a little lower than in Massachusetts, but expenses and house rent much the same. There is one boy  
 396 learning the trade. Is married, and rents a four-roomed house, at \$5.50 a month. Does not think weekly pay would be more beneficial than fortnightly. Thinks monthly pay would be as good as any. Hours, ten a day; would like shorter hours. Only one accident.

RIGBY, C. H., *Superintendent of Glace Bay Mining Co.*

- 460 Twenty-five years connected with company, and manager four years,

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- Number of hands varies from 160 to 200; of these 90 to 120 are miners. About twenty-five boys are employed; laborers and boys sixty or sixty-four. Laborers receive 85 cents to \$1.20; mechanics, \$1.10 to \$1.30; machinists, \$1.50; blacksmiths, \$1 to \$1.25; boys are employed as trappers, twelve years being the youngest. Company has houses, which miners occupy, at a \$1.50 a month; some at \$2 for mechanics. Sanitary condition not so good as might be; no water closets. Is no store in connection with company, but there is one the private property of president; never discriminate as to who deals there. A number of miners own houses, valued from \$300 to \$600 or \$700. Company does not sell land, and its property is assessed at \$55,000; gross tax, last year, \$14,000. Charge men not rate-payers 15 cents, a month school tax; law enforces \$1 per male over twenty-one years of age. Average time of five best men, 193 days; and fair, 180 days; wages, \$1.977 and \$1,392.80, respectively. In shipping season for run of mine pay from 36 to 38 cents a ton; 37 cts. the average. Men recommend doctor and company accepts him, if not objectionable; fee, 40 cents for married men, 36 cents single monthly. Wages paid monthly; more frequently would be a benefit to men; but would entail expense of another clerk; sub-pay would be hardly possible. A good man goes down at 6 a.m. and comes out at 3 or 4 p.m.; sometimes 2 p.m. They must go down at 6 and can come up when they choose. Lower all men down. Does not charge for picks, but men pay for shovels, powder and oil. Sobriety of men very fair, but would favor a law prohibiting sale of liquor within three or five miles of mines. Children attend school regularly, and boys in mine, also, when idle. Officials at one time tried to stop sale of liquor but efforts were ineffectual. Fined for sending up dirty coal only. Does not discriminate against man belonging to Miners' Association, and don't care so long as he is sober and industrious. No provident or benevolent society; suppose company would have no objection to assist one. (*See memorandum.*) Thinks that a railway to Louisbourg would benefit all the collieries in Cape Breton. Would prefer to see it owned by the Government, but if a company owns it the Government should make some provisions to ensure the other company the right to ship over the road at equal rates with owners. Miners are not obliged to deal at company's store. Their material condition has improved very much during last five or six years, and they are becoming more provident and sober, as is proved by their building houses and owning land.

RITCHIE, HENRY, of *J. Matheson & Co., Iron Foundry, New Glasgow.*

- 375 Turn out boilers, engines and castings and employ about forty-seven hands: boiler-makers, twelve; machinists, five; blacksmith, one; moulders, six; laborers, fourteen; boys, six; apprentices, six. Blacksmiths' wages 17 cts. an hour; machinists, 15½ cents; ten hours a day. Boiler-makers average 16 cents an hour; moulders, 17½ cents; best boiler-makers get the same; boys get \$1 a week first year, \$1.20, second year, \$1.40, third, and \$1.80 fourth year—average, 4.3 cents an hour. Ten hours a day. Night work paid one hour and-a-half for one hour. Number of hands never runs below thirty. Pays once a fortnight, on Friday night to Saturday, and men are satisfied. Men sometimes get advances, optional with him. Eleven men own their houses. Water-closets are not first-class. Has had no labor troubles with men and has had only two garnishee orders served on him. Thinks system objectionable.

ROBB, F. B., *Foundry and Machine Shop, Amherst.*

- 322 Employed during last four months seventy-five to eighty men. Moulders make \$15 per week and sometimes more. Business increasing on account

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- 323** of new line of manufacture. Machinists get \$1.25 to \$1.75 a day; some \$2.00; fitters, \$1.40 to \$1.60, some \$1.10; but always allows what a man is worth, and take boys under seventeen. Many of the men own their own houses—from twelve to twenty. One man has built out of his earnings three or four houses; the last one cost probably \$2,500. Has been with firm eighteen years. Rent for a house would average from \$4 to \$7 or \$8. A working-man can live as cheaply as he chooses. Men are paid every Saturday night, and wages are about the same as twelve years ago.
- 324**

ROBERTS, WILLIAM, *Stevedore, Halifax.*

- 229** Sometimes worked as stevedore and sometimes rigging, for forty-five years. Not so much done in the rigging business as ten years ago. Employs hands according to work to be done, eight, or ten, or thirty, forty or fifty, but not that number since Confederation. Does a good deal of stevedore work on steamers and mail boats, but not so much during the past ten years.

ROBSON, ROBERT, *Underground Manager, Sidney Mines, Cape Breton.*

- 427** Looks after working of pit, and has complete control of department. In the pit there are 222 coal-cutters and 190 men and boys. Since twelve years old has been in mines. Has worked in old country, where it is cheaper to live in proportion to wages. Has seen coal cut in old country at 11 cents per ton up to 2s. 6d., difference in seams between hard and soft coal. Accidents are not very frequent; only one fatal last year, caused through fall of roof. Care would guard against such accidents. Last year a man was run over by cars, but not fatal.
- 428**

ROCHE, WILLIAM, *Coal Merchant, Halifax.*

- 215** Present rate of anthracite or hard coal is \$6.50; summer rate is \$5 to \$5.25 a ton. The dealers here are not restricted as to price by the shippers, and any citizen can buy coal at the port of shipment for sale in Halifax.
- 216** Many mechanics and laborers have to buy their coal on credit in winter and pay for it in summer; as a rule they pay well. There would be no danger of spontaneous combustion in taking soft coal from Cape Breton to Ontario ports, seeing that this coal is constantly being shipped to Europe and the West Indies, and no fire from this cause has ever been heard of.

ROSS, JOHN, *Heeler in Shoe Factory, Amherst.*

- 319** Has worked in factory nearly three years at \$8.50 a week, paid weekly; hours, ten a day. Pays \$5 a month for five rooms, and about \$2 taxes for house; also school tax, \$1, and \$2.60 for other taxes. Can save a little money.

RUNNEY, CHARLES, *Miner, Springhill.*

- 285** Corroborates evidence given before in every respect, and would suggest a pick-house at the bottom of slope. Complains of overcrowding in winter.
- 286** For last three weeks had only three days' work, which is only worth one-half day cash, as there are too many men in mine. This could be remedied by not engaging so many; could get as much coal with less men. Has worked in Scotch mines, and generally had no idle time. Considers he was as well off there as here, but would be in a better position here with constant work. Pays \$2.50 rent, and is pleased with house. Has worked from 1s. to 1s. 8d. per ton, and thinks 4s. per day would go further than 6s. here, a four-pound loaf being 7d. or 8d. and beef 8d. or 1s. per pound; pays for beef here 8 to 14 cents. Potatoes about twice the price here. Rent in old country about 6s. a month for two rooms. Generally get coal for the hauling, but has paid 4s. a ton.
- 287**



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RUSSELL, G. J. K., *Tinsmith, Dartmouth, N. S.*

- 157** Chief business is making fish cans. His busy season is from 1st April to 1st. July, during which he employs nine men, their wages being \$1.25 per day. At piece-work they generally make \$1.75 per day. Boys earn from \$2 to \$2.50 a week. The fish cans are sold around the coasts of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The largest lobster packers make them themselves. Ten hours is a day's work. The youngest boy is fifteen, and no girls employed.

SCARFE, FREDERICK, *Manufacturer of Doors, &c., Darmouth.*

- 230** Has been sixteen years in the business. Pays bench hands 15 to 16 cents an hour. Same rate to men employed on the planer and moulding machines. Employs from four and five to seven and eight men, about the same number as he did five years ago, and about half the number he did ten years ago. Work has unquestionably fallen off. Cannot say where he buys most part of stock. Very little change in price of lumber now compared with five or ten years ago. First-class lumber has somewhat risen, but the price of sashes, frames, &c., are about 10 to 15 per cent. less, with wages the same.
- 231** Rent for two rooms, 75 cents to \$1 per week. House with four to six rooms, \$80 per annum. No taxes, but poll tax, \$2. Men are paid weekly in cash up to the day. Day's work, ten hours in summer; seven, eight or nine in winter, according to circumstances. Same rate of pay summer and winter by the hour.

SCOTT, ANDREW, *Miner, Springhill.*

- 290** Corroborates evidence of McLeod, but complains of having to walk up and down to work. Average wages, \$1.75 to \$2 a day; last year about \$300 or \$400. Pays \$2 a month rent to company for three rooms; also taxes. Buys coal from company at 75 cents a load. Has worked in Cape Breton. Prices paid here in some places higher, in some places lower. (*See McLeod.*)
- 291**

SCOTLAND, THOMAS, *of Thomas & Co., Furriers, Halifax.*

- 9** Firm employs four hands. Girls are paid \$3 a week, and work from eight a.m. to six p.m. Business is overdone, and a first-class woman furrier could earn \$4 per week. Girls commencing earn \$1.50, and can learn the trade in a season.

SHAND, JAMES, *Auctioneer, Halifax.*

- 228** Has been a decline in property in Halifax during 1877, 1882 and 1887, in some sections, and an increase in others—in the main, values have decreased; is a general merchandise auctioneer. Finds prices of general merchandise cheaper now than in 1877 and 1882. License is \$80, and does not think any left the business on account of amount of license.
- 229**

SHATFORD, SAMUEL, *Fishing Business, Halifax.*

- 134** Mackerel bring better prices than ten or fifteen years ago, though the fish are scarce along the shore. The men earn more and live fairly well, and their salmon nets, traps and other gear are improved, so far as catching fish, though these improvements destroy a great many. Those who have them gain, but others are injured. His business is in St. Margaret's Bay, and fish are taken there with seines and nets. Number of men engaged in fishing there is not increased.
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SHEARS, FRANK, *Employé, Mayflower Tobacco Factory, Halifax.*

- 66** Agrees with Mr. Carroll, and has the same duties. Earns \$6 a week, and pays 75 cents for single room for himself and wife. Beginners, both boys and girls, earn \$3. Has been working sixteen years at the trade, but does not expect to have his wages increased as he becomes more skilful. All men, except the foreman, receive about the same wages. His room is in a three-story tenement house, containing five families, or from twenty-five to thirty persons, for whose joint use there is a sink, a closet, and water in the yard. The closet is washed out twice a week and cleaned twice or thrice a year by the landlord. There is no smell in summer, and the yard is kept in pretty good order. The house is nearly 20 feet wide, and he is the only tenant who has but one room; others have three or two. (See Carroll.)
- 67**

SHEARS, PHILIP, *Baker, Halifax.*

- 172** Earns \$8 a week the year round in the same shop as Mr. Richard Hogan with whose testimony his evidence agrees. He adds that his shop is comfortable and that there is no sulphur from the ovens. (See Hogan.)

SHRUM, JAMES, *Teamster, Rope Works, Dartmouth.*

- 233** Has been fifteen years in works, and teamster all his life. Has two horses to attend to. Wages when first employed \$1 per day; now receives \$7 a week, payable fortnightly. Commences at 6.30 a.m., at times at 5 a.m.; leaves off from 7 to 8 and 7.30 and 8.30 p.m. Employers treat him well.
- 234** Is a married man, with a family. Bought his house through building society, at \$6 per month for eleven and a-half years. When first married paid \$1 per week for one room.

SIMPSON, ROBERT, *Manager, Drummond Mine, New Glasgow.*

- 380** Employs about 450 men and boys. Pays cutters 40 cents per cubic yard : hours five to seven a day ; average wages would be about \$2. Loaders earn from \$1.25 to \$1.40, average \$1.25. Thinks Drummond wages a little higher than other mines. Drivers are paid 60 to 80 cents and \$1 ; ages from fourteen to sixteen. Lowest to trappers, 50 cents a day ; the youngest is twelve years—from twelve to fourteen of that age. Their parents bring them. Company
- 381** rents houses to men. The cost of a double house, \$450. Rents, \$1.50 ; double house, \$2. Men in village pay a higher rent. A good many miners own houses ; land costs from \$30 to \$40 an acre. Pays wages monthly, but there is a sub-pay once a fortnight for convenience of men. Clanny safety lamps are used, which give more light than others he has seen. If miner breaks glass or gauze he has to pay the cost. Has had only one explosion in fifteen years. Men go up and down shaft to work. Carrying the men puts the
- 383** company to great inconveniences, but is an accommodation to them. Thinks the men are entitled to it after a hard day's work. Garnishee orders are sometimes served—not many. Very few labor troubles for years back, and always discussed point with men and arrived at decision. No difference made with a man who has acted as a delegate. Wages are double those in England and more than in the States. Many men have cows, horses, wagons, and money in bank ; one man had \$4,000 or \$5,000 in bank, saved out of earnings.

SINCLAIR, JAMES, *Blacksmith, Matheson's Foundry, New Glasgow.*

- 403** Has worked at trade fourteen years, at \$2, by the day, of ten hours. Is married, and built property out of earnings. No complaints.

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SINFIELD, AARON, *Master-mason, Halifax.*

- 61** Has about twenty men employed in the season, wages being 30 cents an hour for masons. Masons' work in Halifax lasts about eight months, averaging  
**62** about nine hours a day. By a mason in Halifax is meant a man who lays bricks and stones, stone cutting being a distinct branch. Plasterers earn 25 cents an hour; builders and plasterers' laborers half that amount; lathers get \$1.25 per thousand. The heaters used by plasterers in winter are provided by employers. There have been no labor troubles, and when an increase of wages is wished by the men a few weeks' notice is given. Until this year, there has been no increase for six years.

SLADE, WILLIAM, *Employé, Mayflower Tobacco Factory, Halifax.*

- 68** Agrees with all the evidence already given by his fellow-workmen. Supports his mother and two brothers, and occupies two rooms, at \$1.25 a week, in a tenement house of three stories and an attic. The house has but one sink, closet and water-tap for the joint use of all the occupants. Does not know how often the closet is cleaned, or if there is any offensive smell, not having been there in summer, but thinks that apart from its crowded state the sanitary condition of the house is very good. Does not know the number of occupants. (*See Carroll and Shears*).

SMALLWOOD, ALFRED, *Star Manufacturing Co., Dartmouth.*

- 155** The Star company manufactures skates, cut-nails, spikes, bolts, washers, and employs from 125 to 130 hands. Skilled mechanics earn from \$1.50 to \$2 a day. At piece-work a man can earn from \$1.75 to \$2.25 a day, but many of these piece-workers have to hire and pay a boy out of their  
**156** earnings. The company employs no boys under fourteen. Boys' earnings, as beginners, \$2 a week. The company ships the "Acme" skates to every country where it is cold enough to skate—France, Russia, Japan, northern Europe, all parts of Canada and the States. The patent is now nearly expired, and the retail price has consequently dropped to \$1.75 per pair.

SPELMAN, THOS., *City Fire Department, Halifax.*

- 167** Looks after apparatus and buys horses for fire department. Five men  
**168** handle the horses, and are paid \$8 a week each. The city firemen serve without pay. Raising draught and carriage horses from English cobs or Cleveland bays would pay in Nova Scotia quite as well as cattle.

STAIRS, JOHN F., *Rope Works, Dartmouth.*

- 159** Is one of the owners of the rope works, which employ 160 men by day and  
**160** sixty-two by night. Men who are not machinists get \$7 a week; unskilled men, \$6, and departmental hands \$1.50 a day for ten hours day-work. The night hands get the the same wages for fifty-five hours as the day men do for sixty hours. The women get from \$3 to \$3.75 a week. The first week or two they begin at \$2.50. Very few girls are under twenty. The output of cordage is sold in the winter in the Maritime Provinces and the trade is increasing. Binders' twine goes to the United States, Ontario, Manitoba and the North-West, and the demand for it in western Provinces is rapidly increasing. Only a few tons of binder twine are used in the Maritime Provinces, but 150 tons are sent to the United States. The sexes have separate conveniences—the men and boys outside; the women in their two workrooms. The women can sit down part of the time. There are no fines.  
**161** About twelve women work from 6 p.m. to 5.30 a.m., five nights a week, with 30 minutes intermission. No small boys were discharged on account



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- of the coming of the Commission, as the foreman would not know anything about it. It is not intended to have boys under fifteen. Their age is, of course, ascertained. Average prices of cordage and binder twine for home consumption are much lower than the prices in the States, the cordage being scaled the same as in England. The day hands in the binder-twine trade are sometimes worked four hours extra and are paid for five hours. Spinning yarn from Russian hemp is very dusty work, but Manilla hemp has very little dust. Care is taken to keep the place as free from dust as possible.
- 162** Denies having discharged several boys on account of age, since the Labor Commission began. Thinks, as a matter of fact, has no children under fifteen years in his employ.

STEELE, S. W., *Clerk, Shoe Factory, Amherst.*

- 313** One hundred and sixty three hands employed; established in 1867, trade having gradually increased. Wages paid amount to about \$970 a week, besides the staff. Staff consists of managers and clerks. Ten hours a day's work. Highest paid on piece-work is \$11 a week; skilled men from \$7 to \$11; girls, \$1.75; boys the same—about \$1.50 the lowest. Women get on the average \$2.65; the highest \$5, lowest \$1.75; youngest girl about seventeen years old. Thirty-one women, twenty-one boys, and 100 skilled men employed. About thirty-six men own their houses, some partly paid for. Rents a little higher than they used to be. Factory now shut down.
- 315** Hours, from 7 a.m. to 12, and 1 p.m. to 6. Same pay for day as night-work; paid once a week, in full. Separate conveniences for the sexes. No means of escape from fire, except by stairways, doors opening inwards.

STEVENSON, ROBERT, *Timberman, Londonderry Iron Co.*

- 260** Has been six years in employ of company and has worked in States of Maryland and Pennsylvania. Gets \$1.30 a day here; in the States \$3 per day of nine hours. Is married, with family, and pays \$2.50 per month rent for one of company's houses, four rooms and kitchen. Also pays taxes, poor and county rates, 56 cents; school tax, \$1, and road money \$1. Miners pay for their own lamps. Water good in some places, in others very bad, well water; no pumps. Coals about \$3 a ton, uses 20 or 30 cwt. a month.
- 261** Would like to see more wages paid, but has no objection to being paid monthly; paid so in the States.

SULLIVAN, JOHN, *Printer, Halifax.*

- 150** He fully agrees with all the statements of Mr. Woods and has nothing to add to them, except that the office in which he has worked six years, might be better ventilated. Is opposed to indentured apprenticeship. The type-sticking floor has not, to his knowledge, been scrubbed for six years, these being, as a rule, never scrubbed, although the men use tobacco largely; the spittoons formerly provided have been kicked out and lost. (*See Woods.*)

SUTHERLAND, HENRY, *Accountant, General Mining Association, Cape Breton.*

- 432** In charge of offices and stores, and has power to employ and discharge hands and regulate wages. Employé's wages about the same as in other stores. No instructions to favor one man more than another. Goods sold as cheaply as in other stores; only where prices are put up we adhere to our own prices. Does not wish to compete with merchants. No advance in flour until opening of navigation; this for protection of men. In the spring of 1877 flour was in the hands of two people, and went up from \$7.50 to \$10 a barrel, and secretary said men must be protected. About 250 families deal at store. Garnishees not very frequent. Has

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- 434** been connected with works between fifteen and sixteen years and finds men sober. If houses require repairs it is reported to head carpenter, and is done as soon as possible. Any report of unhealthy causes the management would take notice of. Does not think fortnightly pay would be of advantage to men; would entail work and expense. Credit system keeps about the same.

SUTHERLAND, JOHN, *Foreman, Mayflower Tobacco Factory, Halifax.*

- 72** Has worked six years and earns \$8 a week all the year round, and has the supervision of the whole place. There are neither fines nor punishments in factory. Does not know of any bad language or improper familiarity among the hands. The men are searched; has found persons taking tobacco. Foremen are not searched. There are separate closets in rotation for the sexes, with board partitions. There are 120 windows, and the rooms are 12 feet high. More applicants for work than can be employed. Has only about two boys. There are three tobacco factories in Halifax. Closed for about two months every winter.

SWAINE, STANLEY, *Manager of the Dartmouth Ferry Co.*

- 164** Company employs twenty men, ten on the boat, and ten at the works in Dartmouth. Engineers are all certificated, and get \$45 a month; carpenters and mates get \$9 a week; firemen, \$7.50. Has had no accidents at the ferry since he assumed charge, three years ago, nor have there been any labor troubles. The hours of duty for the crews are from 6 a.m. to 6:45 p.m., one week, and from 8 a.m. to 12 midnight the week ensuing, with alternate Sundays at their own disposal. The women who sell tickets at the Halifax office get \$4 a week each, one staying from the first morning boat—5:30 or 6:30 according to the season—until noon, and the other from noon until the last boat leaves, 11:30 p.m. They change weekly. A mechanics' ticket for men living in Dartmouth and working in Halifax, costs \$1 per quarter, and can be used from the first boat to 8 a.m., and between 5 and 7 p.m. A quarterly ticket, good for all boats, costs \$4.50.

SWAN, ARTHUR, *Fancy Baker, Halifax.*

- 177** Has worked three or four years at the trade, and is in his seventeenth year. He gets \$2.75 a week, his day's work being ten hours. A good many boys work in the shop, a few being younger than himself, but none so young as Larkin. There are also three or four men. The first year he got \$1 a week, with a yearly increase. (See Larkin.)

TANNER, ALBERT, *Tailor's Cutter, Halifax.*

- 40** Has been a cutter for two years and works by the piece, average earnings **41** being \$13 weekly. Rooms are well ventilated, and have conveniences upstairs. Nine hours is a day's work, with half holiday on Saturday. Is glad there is no labor organization among the Halifax tailors, and thinks every one should be paid according to his ability and work.

TANNER, GEORGE, *Painter, Halifax.*

- 123** Wages and hours of work, and his opinions as to indentureship, are identical with those of previous witnesses belonging to the trade. Last year, 1887, he worked eleven months, being unusually fortunate, but in 1886 only a little over six months. Reckoning from 1st April, 1887, to 1st April, 1888, he made about \$400; the year before not over \$260. Has a wife and seven **124** children. Owns his residence. A tenement of two or three rooms costs

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\$1.25 a week, and that not in the central part of the city, where the difficulty of getting tenements is yearly increasing. (See Harrison, Johnston, Kennedy, McAinsh, Martin, Walsh and Young.)

TANNER, JOSEPH, *Tailor's Pressman, Halifax.*

- 47 Works nine hours a day, except Saturday, and is constantly employed. He works by the piece, averaging about \$9.25 for the five and a-half days; paid fortnightly, on Saturdays. Shop is well ventilated and comfortable, and is on the second story, where between forty and fifty hands are working. No fire-escapes, but a very good stairway outside the house; doors open outwards. Conveniences for the men and women are separated by a partition, the doors being side by side, but closets separate from the work room.

TAYLOR, ROBERT, *Boot and Shoe Manufacturer, Halifax.*

- 16 About 140 hands employed, at wages, for men, from \$6 to \$10; for women, from \$2 to \$6; and for boys, from \$2 to \$3. These wages are for ten hours a day. Cutters get from \$7 to \$8 per week; packers, \$10. A girl beginning will earn \$2 at pasting; on fine work a woman can earn \$6, the average for women's wages being \$5. There are no fines, but damages have to be paid for. No labor trouble for twelve years. At that time the difficulty was settled by letting the hands go until they returned, asking to be taken back. This is the course he would follow again under similar circumstances. The trouble referred to was caused by a man being discharged whose work did not suit, and the Crispin organization insisting on his being taken back. He had been employed for a year, but did something that did not please the foreman. Witness and his foreman object to employing men belonging to labor organizations. They think if men are treated well they are better without such combinations, some men being better worth \$10 a week than others are worth \$7. No accident has occurred with the machinery, except a slight one to a girl. The factory is well ventilated and healthy, and the closets for the two sexes are on different flats. Has been in business for seventeen years. His market is chiefly in the Maritime Provinces, though he also ships to Newfoundland and Bermuda. He has no Upper Province trade. All his sole leather and most of his upper and sheep-skins are got in Nova Scotia; his kid in Montreal. He thinks that sole leather cannot be tanned as cheaply here as in the States, labor being cheaper there than in Nova Scotia. There is no combination among the Halifax shoe manufacturers to keep up prices.

TERRANCE, WILLIAM, *Driver, Springhill.*

- 302 Is fifteen years old; at work in mine five years. First turned the fan for about four months, at 45 cents a day. Is now driving for three years, at 70 cents a day. When first went driving got 55 cents. Highest wages paid to drivers, \$1.25 a day. Gives wages to parents; has three brothers and five sisters, and likes the work.

THOMPSON, JOHN, *Broom Manufacturer, Halifax.*

- 146 Makes about 60,000 brooms a year, and employs three journeymen and three helpers. Journeymen earn from \$7 to \$8 a week and occasionally \$9, working ten hours a day for nine months, and 8 or 9 hours for the rest of the year. There is very little night work, as it is not profitable. Helpers get \$4 or \$5 a week. Since Dorchester penitentiary was started, broom-making in the Maritime Provinces by prison labor has been given up as losing money. Prisons find it difficult to get competent men to superintend. They had broom-makers, but not broom manufacturers. Broom-corn comes from



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Chicago, and costs for freight by way of Boston and the Prince Edward Island Steamers 90 cents a hundred. This is 20 cents cheaper than by the Grand Trunk and Intercolonial, which have lost this trade by raising the freight in January, 1887, from 80 cents to \$1.10. The Central Prison, Toronto, still makes brooms, but very few come here.

**TOBY, ROBERT, Carpenter, Halifax.**

- 63** Works for the Imperial Government, and gets 17 cents an hour; paid fortnightly. Hours from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. in summer, and seven hours in winter. About seven or eight civilians are similarly employed, including painters and masons.

**TOREY, HERVEY, Employé, N. S. Steel Works, New Glasgow.**

- 388** Heater in works about four years. Five are employed; ten hours a day; constant employment. Gets \$12 a week, and wages compare favorably with other places. Is single, and pays for board \$3 to \$3.25, exclusive of washing. Is paid half-monthly, on 17th and 2nd of the month, two days after time, in cash and in full; periods satisfactory. No society fund, subscription being taken up for sickness or accident. Managers treat the men very fairly. No labor troubles. Some men have saved money. Habits of men not very generally sober. No garnishees. Closets in good condition. Day and night gangs take turns about. Twelve hours at night make a full week. Arrangements satisfactory.

**TOWER, CLIFFORD, Employé Shoe Factory, Amherst.**

- 320** Works at lasting, on piece-work, his average earnings being \$10, \$11 and \$12 per week of ten hours. A fair man can earn \$9 a week. Is paid every Saturday. Could lay by money, but has not done so. Is married. Not many boys employed in his branch.

**TOWNSEND, HENRY, Stock Farmer, New Glasgow.**

- 379** Within the last five or ten years there has been a decided improvement in all farm stock—horses, cattle, pigs, poultry, &c., and also in the profits resulting from the increased prices obtained for them. The demand for horses for the British cavalry has not hitherto been studied by farmers, though it probably will be. American trotters are what are now raised. The cavalry standard is very high, but the mares must be imported, and can be bought cheaply at the annual sales, in England, of horses rejected from some trifling defect that will not affect their offspring. People depend too much on the horse. With good mares—and some regiments have all mares—the standard can be more quickly worked up to. Truck or draft horses are improving, and there is a ready sale for all that are raised. Jersey cattle are bought by Americans and delivered in St. John, for sale in cities and villages to families keeping a cow. The sheep referred to by Mr. Drummond as Merinos are Southdowns, there being no Merinos here. Dogs interfere greatly with the raising of sheep. There is some improvement in hogs, but many farmers stick to the old stock. Pastures are natural and fairly good, but are not prepared for permanent pastures, and therefore are not adapted for the thoroughbred Durhams bought by some dealers. The farmers reduce their stock in the winter, and sell good, healthy beef by the side at 3, 4 and 5 cents per pound.

**TUMMINGS, PATRICK, Employé, in Cloth room, Cotton Company.**

- 130** Worked four years in cloth-room of Halifax Cotton Factory; earns \$4.50 a week. A man attends to the folding machine, and a boy of nineteen to

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the brusher, for which he gets \$3 a week. A week's work is sixty hours, with pay at the day rate for overtime. Is a wrapper, and is steadily employed. Does not find his work hard. The room is comfortable and the conveniences handy. Fines are now and then imposed for throwing things about, &c., but knows of no complaining of hard work or ill-treatment.

TURNBULL, JOHN, *Superintendent, N. S. Sugar Refinery, Halifax.*

10

About eighty men employed; not many are experienced hands. Average

11

wage is about 12½ cents an hour. Eight skilled men, or foremen, are employed and get from \$1.50 to \$1.60 per day of ten hours; two boys of sixteen are employed at \$5 a week, but no women. The refinery well ventilated; business is healthy; 75 per cent of the output is used in Canada, some being sent as far as Winnipeg. Company has a cooperage, and pays the man in charge a fixed sum for each barrel. He employs men at piece-work; earn from \$1.50 to \$1.70 per day. The company is unconnected with the sugar combine, and sells to wholesale dealers of every kind without distinction.

TURNER J., *Puddler, Londonderry Iron Works.*

268

Has a house built on company's lands, for which he pays \$5 a year ground rent. Considers it a heavy rent, and thinks lot may sell for \$15, but \$10 to \$12 a fair price. Pays \$2.50 school taxes; cannot tell road tax. Board about \$3.25 in the old country, about \$5 or \$6 a week here, including luxuries.

269

Land is leased from company for six months. If notice to quit is given would take away property on it. Does not say company would order one off at end of six months, but have power to do so without allowing for building.

VAN DE VENTER, J. F., *Manager, Halifax Street Railway.*

28

Between thirty and forty men are employed, fifteen being drivers, seven

29

grooms, two feeders, one blacksmith and a helper, the rest being stablemen. Drivers are on duty nearly twelve hours, but actual working hours are less than nine. They earn \$1.25 a day, and are paid for extra time at the same rate. Stable hands get \$7 a week; blacksmith, \$14 and his helper \$7. Stablemen commence at 6 a.m. and leave at 7 or 7.30 p.m., and take turns about getting off every second night. Drivers are off work every alternate Sunday.

WAGSTAFF, J. H., *General Manager N. S. Telephone Co., Halifax.*

221

Has been in the business for five years. About twelve men are employed,

222

at from \$30 to \$60 a month, the lowest rate being for unskilled laborers. The seven girls, employed to attend to the switchboards, get from \$12 to \$25 a month; while learning, which takes about six months, they are paid \$5 a month. They have relief hours and lunch hours and do not work at night. On Sundays one girl worked from 7 a.m. till 1 p.m. and another from 1 p.m. to 7. The night-man stays from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. every night, and gets from \$25 to \$40; line-men get \$40 a month. None of them have been seriously hurt, though constantly employed. Separate closets and entrances for the two sexes. There is no Dominion patent for the instrument, so that any one can start a company though no one has yet done so.

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WATERFIELD, CHARLES, *Dartmouth Rope Works.*

- 232** Is twenty-eight years of age, and gets orders ready for shipping, &c. Has been in employment for five years at \$1 a day. Has a wife and two children. Is pinched to maintain a family of four; is not out of debt, and constant work last year only. Debt contracted previously, and is now paying some off. Is treated well by employers and, paid fortnightly, on Friday night, up to previous Tuesday night. About 150 hands employed. Fines are inflicted as per printed rules, for lateness, &c., but not strictly applied; boys, men and women are subject to fines.

WALKER, ANDREW, *Manager, N. S. Glass Works, New Glasgow.*

- 371** Manufactures table ware and lamp goods, 110 hands being employed. Thirteen gaffers receive from \$2.50 to \$3.50 a day of six or seven hours. Glass-blowers' Association establishes so many articles for a day's work. Assistants of glass-blowers earn from \$1.10 to \$1.50 a day, and are one-half grown boys, from fifteen to eighteen years of age, and work same number of hours. Boys finishing (age fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, and so on) receive from 80 to 90 cents a day. Nearly all the boys live with their parents. A tumbler, like one produced, takes seven boys and a man to make, all in one gang. Gatherer gets from \$1.10 to \$1.50 a day; the man who works the press gets from \$2.25 to \$3 a day; has charge of gang. Carrying-in boys get 50 to 60 or 70 cents a day. Finisher gets \$3 a day. Night-gang has shorter hours, with same pay as day-work. Men are paid once a week, Saturday, in cash, up to Thursday. Has fifteen foreigners at present. Started only six years ago and had to employ foreigners, but now gradually getting in own countrymen. Some men who were taken on as boys are now earning more than \$2.50 a day. Glass-blowing is very injurious to health, but men are a very dry lot and drink hard. As a rule, present hands are fairly steady. Employs a girl to wrap up goods in tissue paper, at 60 cents to 70 cents a day. Hours, eight and a-half to nine. Men at furnaces earn \$8.75 a week. Unskilled laborers outside earn from \$1 to \$1.10 a day. Some of the men own houses. Works shut down for about six weeks in July and August, it being a matter of necessity.
- 373** Separate closets for girls, not in same building. Men's wages are sometimes garnisheed. One man has stock in the company. Wages are lower here than in Pittsburgh and elsewhere. Has had no trouble with society.
- 374** House rent less than half the amount in United States. No fines, but imperfect work is broken and not paid for. Closets are cleaned whenever necessary.
- 375**

WALSH, THOMAS J., *Master Painter, Halifax.*

- 102** Employs twenty or twenty-five hands, including three boys, who are
- 103** indentured for five years, and get \$1.50 a week the first year and \$4 the last. They are given good instruction as workmen, and at the end of their term get generally from \$5 to \$5.50. The indentured apprenticeship system is the best. The general rate for men, as fixed five or six years ago by the Painters' Society, is \$10 a week. Before that time he used to pay his best men \$12 and the inferior ones \$8. Now all are paid alike; still his painters are quite as good as formerly. Three apprentices is the number allowed by the Union, not including two shop boys. Paper-hangers and grainers used to get \$12; sign-writers, who are very scarce, and who are now paid by the job, \$15, or a special price; brush-hands, \$10, \$9 or \$8. Since the strikes of five or six years ago there has been no trouble, nor does there seem likely to be any. The tendency of a uniform rate of wages is that the best men are constantly employed, and the inferior hands only when work is plentiful,
- 104**



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the result being that the best men, from constant practice, are worth 20 to 25 per cent. more than the poorer workmen. Some men are better worth \$10 than others are \$8 or \$6. The first will always be preferred, while the latter are out of work some part of each year. He conforms to the society's rules, but thinks that every man should be paid according to his merit. From two to three months during the winter is the slack season among painters in Halifax. During that time, and up to 1st March, about half of them are idle. Has men in his shop who have been there twenty-five years, and who served their time with his father.

105

103

WATSON, THOMAS, *Cotton-spinner, Halifax.*

127

128

Earns from \$10 to \$11 per week of sixty hours. The room is comfortable, and there is no bad language or improper treatment used to the children. The fines are for coming late, neglecting work or giving impudence. Has worked thirty years in England, and Halifax in the latter four or five years. Was not engaged in England to come here. Mills here are as well conducted, the children as well treated and as well educated, and life and limb as well protected as in England. The English Factory Act, if introduced here, would be a good thing. Children in England can only work half time until they have passed the sixth standard of education. He can earn as much here and live as cheaply as in England, where he had a four-roomed cottage, for 4s. a week. Here he pays \$1 for three or four rooms.

WHITE, MACK, *Laborer, Amherst.*

322

Last summer he got \$1.50 a day for two months; this summer \$1.10 first and then \$1.15. Unloads cars for the mill; has been five years with firm on and off; is married. Pays \$5.25 per month rent. Tobacco, butter, potatoes and flour cheaper at Memramcook than here.

WHITE, PHILIP, *Miner, Springhill.*

288

Corroborates evidence of Charles Runney. Is married, and owns house and land. Has been employed by company about five months, and bought house out of wages earned during that time. (*See Runney.*)

WHITMAN, A. N., *Merchant, Halifax.*

139

140

Is a ship-owner. His vessels go to the banks cod-fishing, and in the winter he ships to the West Indies. He also sells in the home market. Thinks Mr. Carney's estimate of the earnings of the vessels and the men altogether too large. Mr. Carney mentioned vessels earning \$9,000, which they might do, but he has not considered the expenses, which are very large. A vessel of his (Whitman's) of 140 tons, sailed an hour ago, and her bills were \$2,400 for one trip. She is supposed to make two trips. This sum includes salt and provisions. He is well satisfied if a vessel of his clears \$2,000 up to 1st October as his share. Men are sometimes given \$175 or \$200 each for their share of the summer catch. Those engaged in drying fish earn, in summer, \$1.25 per day, but there is little to be done in this way during the winter. About seven months is the season's work. In the vessel that sailed to-day eight men were hired, and the rest were on shares; has another vessel, with sixteen men, all on shares, except the cook, who is paid by the crew. There are about 200 vessels sailing from Halifax.

WILDE, C. J., *Secretary Acadia Powder Co., Halifax.*

15

The company employs between twenty and thirty men, at wages from \$30 to \$160 a month, ten hours a day. Three or four men are employed making kegs, at the same wages. The works are fifteen miles from Halifax, and

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there has been but one serious accident, and that about six years ago. The powder is largely used in the mines of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

WILKINSON, EDWARD, *Miner, Stellarton.*

- 369** Concurs in evidence of Drummond, McLellan and Munsie. Has worked in mines in England from ten years of age to twenty-eight or twenty-nine. At first got 16 cents a day driving; for hauling coal from men, 1s. 2d. per box. When fourteen could earn as much as any boy here, and was paid as much, if not more, in England. In 1871, 1872 and 1873, a fair day's earnings was 5s.; here, \$2. Five shillings would be equal to \$1 here. Is married, and rents a comfortable house at \$2.50 per month. Gets coal from company at \$1.60 a ton. Fined many times on account of standard of coal sent up, and supposes about 3s. would be the most. Living about the same cost as in England; clothes do not wear as long, nor boots. Saves 25 per cent. by paying cash, and favors fortnightly pay. Taxes about \$4 a year. Pays doctor's fee, and has no objection. Doctor charges \$3 extra for lying-in cases, but supplies no medicine. Is satisfied with the way he is treated by managers. (*See Drummond, McLellan and Munsie.*)
- 370**

WOODS, J. T., *Printer, Halifax.*

- 149** Compositor on both a morning and evening paper. The average per man is sixty hours a week; some more and some less. In what is called the short week of fifty-three hours, a compositor will set from 30,000 to 43,000. In the long week of sixty-seven hours he will go from 41,000 to 58,000. There has been no labor trouble for six years. During that time wages have not increased. There are generally three or four weeks of idle time before New Year's, but for the rest of the year there is steady work for eight or nine hours a night. Has no complaints to make, and is perfectly satisfied.
- 150**

WYATT, JOHN, *Spinning-master, N.S. Cotton Factory, Halifax.*

- 74** Has worked in factory for eight months, and earns about \$15 a week. There are fines, of not more than 25 cents, for misconduct, breakage, injury to the machinery, &c., according to fixed rules; hours are from 6.30 a.m. to 7 p.m., or at busy times to 7.15. Complaints of bad language are very seldom made; a man saying or doing anything improper to the children would be dismissed. A brick wall separates the conveniences, but there is no outside division. Children begin work from eleven to fourteen, and earn \$1.25 a week. No law in Nova Scotia fixing the earliest age at which a child can be engaged. No fine for talking or being late, and children are never whipped for anything. Women in the spinning-room average \$3.25 a week and are paid their wages if the machine breaks. Building is four stories high, with fire-escapes on every story. The doors are spring doors, opening both ways.
- 76** There is an elevator for material. Machinery is well protected, and there have been no accidents in his room.

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- 122** He approves in every respect of the testimony of the witnesses belonging to the trade. (*See Harrison, Johnston, Kennedy, McAinsh, Martin, Walsh.*)





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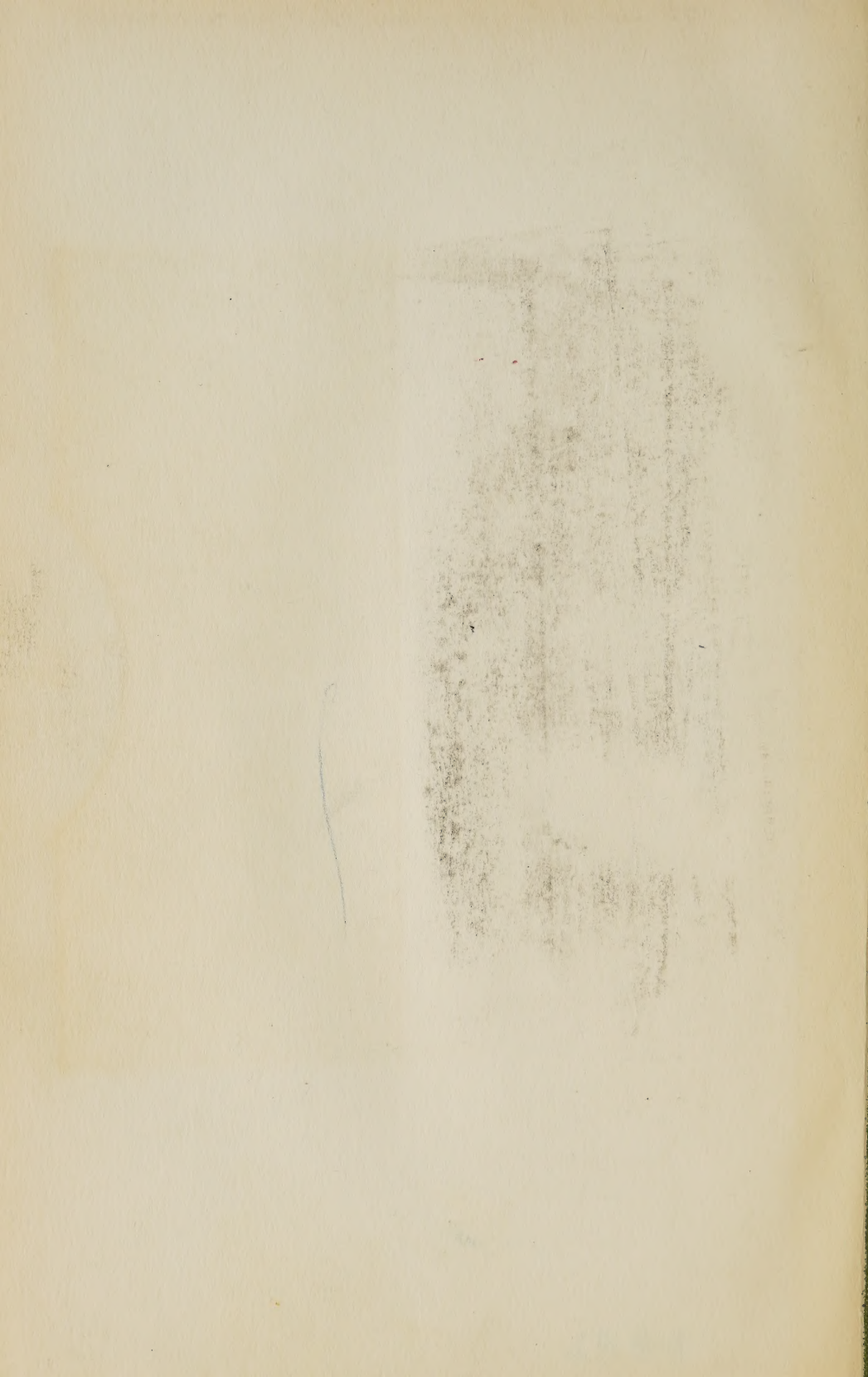












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